



THE ENTERPRISE

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Vol. 147 No. 37 Website: www.theenterprise.net STUART, VIRGINIA WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2023 USPS 523-500 \$1.00

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

Firefighters treated for heat exhaustion Thursday

By Debbie Hall

Several firefighters responding to an afternoon fire call were treated for heat exhaustion Thursday, according to a report from the scene.

Dispatchers received the call reporting a structure fire at 150 Riverside Drive in Stuart around 2:55 p.m.

Fire crews arriving at the scene found a single brick home with smoke coming from both ends of the attic. Firefighters gained access to the attic and extinguished the fire. The home received heavy damage to the kitchen area as well as the wall behind the cook stove and ceiling.

Fire crews throughout the county responded to the call, including those from Stuart Fire, Patrick Springs, Patrick County Emergency Services, Fairystone, and Moorefield Store volunteer fire departments.

While working to extinguish the blaze between 3 and 4 p.m., firefighters were challenged by the extreme heat as temperatures spiked well above 90 degrees. Several were treated for heat exhaustion by members of the Jeb Stuart Rescue Squad.

The Virginia State Police are investigating

the blaze, which was one of multiple events on Thursday.

Early Thursday, around 8:50 a.m., crews also responded to a call on U.S. 58, according to a report from the scene. Two women were riding their bikes on the westbound side of U.S. 58, just before the stoplight near Wendy's, when one of the women was struck by an 18-wheeler.

The woman suffered from road rash and right leg pain. She was checked out by Stuart First Responders and Patrick County EMS Services, and then transported by Jeb Stuart Rescue Squad.

The call to report a kitchen fire came in around 2:40 p.m. Stuart Fire and Patrick County Emergency Services crews responded to the blaze at 210 Patrick Avenue. The stove in the



Pictured is a home on Riverside Drive in Stuart. Several firefighters responding to the Thursday call were treated for heat exhaustion. (Contributed)

kitchen caught fire, and while fire crews quickly extinguished the blaze, the apartment sustained heavy smoke. Fire crews placed a smoke ejector fan in the apartment and were working to clear out the smoke when the call to the house fire was received, according to a report from the scene.

Firefighters were working to clear the smoke from an apartment when they were summoned to the house fire.



After more than 20 years of service to the county, EDA chairman Bill Clark will not seek reappointment when his current term ends in August.

Clark to step down from EDA

By Taylor Boyd

After serving more than 20 years on the Patrick County Economic Development Authority (EDA) Board, Bill Clark, its chairman, will not seek reappointment when his current term expires in August.

"My kids are grown,

Mary's (his wife's) kids are grown, our parents are both gone, and we have this golden window of opportunity where we both still have our health, we love to travel," Clark said.

Additionally, "I'm in the process of buying a house in Florida, and

I'm divesting myself of as many responsibilities as I can so I can enjoy life while this golden window is open," he said.

A belief in term limits also influenced his decision.

"If I truly believe in term limits, my term

(See Clark p. 7)

Two held in connection with tractor, bush hog theft

Staff Reports

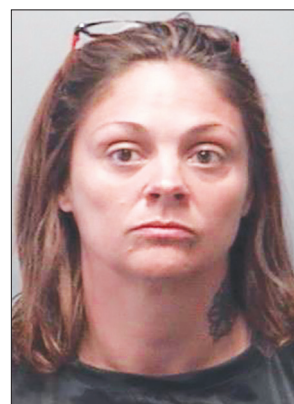
A couple has been arrested following the theft of a 47 hp Kubota tractor and bush hog, according to Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith.

John Albert Nester, 51, of 20 VFW Road, Patrick Springs, was arrested July 24 and charged with grand larceny, obtain money/merchandise under false pretense, and larceny with intent to sell.

Tanya Leahann Branch, 42, of 911 Flamingo Road, was arrested on July 22 and charged with the same offenses of grand larceny, obtain money/merchandise under false pretense, and larceny with intent to sell.



John Albert Nester



Tanya Leahann Branch

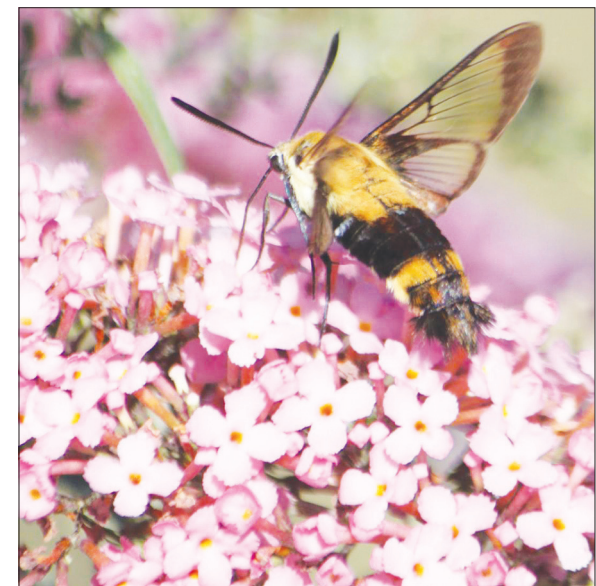
The tractor was allegedly stolen approximately a week earlier from a location on Taylor View Road, the sheriff said.

Smith said the investigation showed that after the tractor was stolen, a man allegedly "negotiated a deal to trade the tractor for

money and merchandise," while a woman allegedly "participated by providing transportation throughout the duration of the offense."

Nester is being held without bond and Branch is being held on a \$5,000 secured bond.

Gathering nectar on a summer day



A Hummingbird Moth uncurls its tongue to gather nectar from flowers at Kathy Conner's home in Stuart. Conner enjoys taking and sharing photos of the creatures attracted to the wide array of plants in her backyard.

Drake to serve as shared grant writer

By Taylor Boyd

Charles Drake is ready to make a difference and help the county in any way he can after starting his new role as a grant writer on July 10. The position will be shared by the county and school division.

Schools Superintendent Jason Wood said the school division is paying the salary and benefits for the position, and deducting half of that amount from the quarterly School Resources Officer (SRO) payment it sends to the county.

Drake's "office is in the school board office, however, he is splitting time between both the county and the school division and looking for grant opportunities that would benefit us both," Wood said.

Interim County Administrator Tim Hall said the position will be split 50/50 with the school board.

Drake, 50, said he applied for the post because he felt it would give him an opportunity to make a difference.

"I know how important it is to obtain those kinds of grants, or different types of grants, and how it impacts the community, and the folks in the community," he said.

Drake previously worked for the Rowan County Health Department in North Carolina and Smart Start Rowan, where he was involved in the grant writing process.

In this role, Drake will be responsible for finding and applying for grants to benefit the county and the school division, with some possibly overlapping and benefiting both sides.

"They came together in this decision," Drake said. "They had some opportunities they wanted to take advantage of with some grants, but they didn't quite have the staffing to make that happen. So, they had decided to invest in the position and try to obtain enough grants to make it worthwhile for sure for the cost of the salary and benefits."

Drake said his secondary duty will be collaborate. (See County p. 7)



Charles Drake started as the shared Patrick County and Patrick County School division grant writer on July 10.



Tourism Talks

Hi Patrick, Well, we had a rough Saturday for the Uptown Cruise-In. We had several cars come and fill Main Street. Rotary had gotten the stage, booked the band, and we were ready to go... and "boom," the sky fell. Rain, rain, and more rain. It was a washout!

I do want to thank everyone who came out to support us. The various car owners, the Patrick County 4H Marksmen,

Bryce Simmons and the Town of Stuart crew, Superintendent of Schools Jason Woods, Wren Williams, with Schneider & Williams Law Offices, the Entire Main Street Businesses, Wayne Kirkpatrick and the Rotary Club, the Tourism Advisory Council and You, our faithful citizens for working together. If I have missed someone, charge it to my head, not my heart. I am grateful to all of you.

We will continue pushing forward to bring more activities, events, and shows to our lovely county, continue traditions, and pick up some that have slipped by the wayside. So again, Thank you, Patrick County. We got this. So, join us. "Come Get Lost and Find Yourself Here."

I will talk to you soon. James Houchins, Director of Tourism (jhouchins@co.patrick.va.us)

Amos Named to Sherman College Spring 2023 Dean's List

Matthew Amos of Stuart, VA, has been named to Sherman College of Chiropractic's Dean's List for grades earned during the Spring 2023 academic quarter.

Dean's List students have achieved a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the quarter. Sherman College of Chiropractic provides students with a comprehensive education, preparing them to enter the field as doctors of chiropractic who are highly skilled, compassionate, ethical and successful.

Card of Thanks

The family of Dale Pendleton would like to thank each person who showed such tremendous support, sympathy, and kindness during this difficult time.

We wish to thank our dedicated and committed extended family, neighbors, and friends who visited us, helped, and supported us every step of the way. Thank you to everyone who came to the funeral and vis-

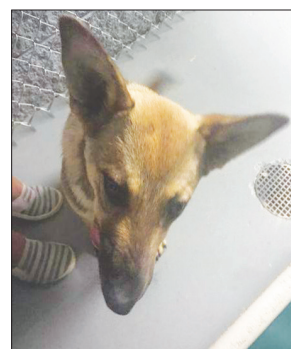
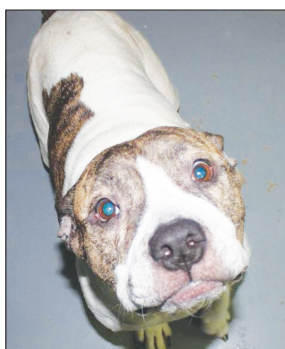
itation and demonstrated such an outpouring of love for the Pendleton family.

To the many others who helped by preparing meals, sending flowers and cards, helping arrange details of the funeral and memorial service, and a thousand other things that we can't begin to list here, thank you. Also thank you for the generous donations to the Plasters Family Cemetery.

We are comforted knowing that all Dale's work family, high school friends and acquaintances thought so much of him. To every one of you who has been in our lives in some way we are deeply grateful for your support. Dale will be missed beyond expression by all who loved him.

Dale Ellis Pendleton
January 14, 1953
June 12, 2023

Pets of the Week



One of these ladies is camera shy, the other is not. Can you guess which is which?

The pit mix looking directly at the camera was found on Fayerdale Dr. and is waiting to be reclaimed. She has such a sweet face that we think someone must be missing her.

This shepherd mix is about a year old and adorable as can be. She has a gentle face and is available for adoption.

Call the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter (PCPAS) at (276) 694-6259, or visit to see other available pets. You can also check out the shelter's Facebook page. Adoption fees are \$10 and include spay/neuter and rabies vaccination.



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Online Auction

Ends Thursday, Sept. 7th @ 4 PM

Building Lot with View for Sale in Meadows of Dan VA
TBD Edgeview Dr., Meadows of Dan, VA 24120

Bid Now at VAAuctionPro.com



Check out this beautiful building lot in Meadows of Dan VA! Property features +/- 3.165 acres of wooded land. There are underground utilities in place. The property has one of the best views in the area! With some clearing, this would be an ideal spot for your dream home in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Property is in the Edgeview Mountain Estates. Located minutes from the Blue Ridge Parkway, Chateau Morrisette Winery, Mabry Mill, and Rocky Knob. The towns of Floyd, Hillsville, and Stuart VA are all within a short 30+ minute commute. Come build your dream home here and enjoy country living in the Blue Ridge Mountains!

Terms: 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$5,000 required on day of sale. Close on or before October 23rd, 2023. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the Auction, Bidder Packet and/or Pre-Auction offers received. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps at VAAuctionPro.com.

Contact Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at
540-239-2585 or email gallimore.matt@gmail.com.
You can also contact Realtor Boie Dehart at
276-952-5061 or email BoieD@yahoo.com



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Matt Gallimore,
Broker/Auctioneer
Lic #2907004059

Online Auction

Ends Friday, August 4th at 3 PM

TBD Woolwine Hwy & Dogwood Mountain Ln.,
Woolwine, VA 24185

Bid Now at VAAuctionPro.com



Are you searching for land for sale in Patrick County VA? Look no further! This incredible opportunity features +/- 23 acres of pristine wooded land, divided into 7 tracts ranging from 2 - 5.5 acres. The properties are near the Blue Ridge Parkway, Floyd VA, and Stuart VA. Whether you are seeking a mountain getaway, a recreational retreat or an ideal building site, these tracts have it all. Purchase one or multiple to get your desired amount of acreage. Don't let this opportunity slip away!

Offering #1: 2.025 ac **Offering #4: 4.988 ac**
Offering #2: 2.647 ac **Offering #5: 5.40 ac**
Offering #3: 2.045 ac **Offering #6: 3.123 ac**
Offering #7: 2.851 ac

Terms: 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$5,000 per tract required on day of sale. Close on or before September 19th, 2023. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Tracts are being offered individually and if bidder wishes to purchase multiple tracts, bidder will need to be the high/winning bidder on both offerings. Auction starts ending at 3 PM on August 4th, 2023. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the auction, bidder packet, and/or any pre-auction offers received. Download Bidder Information Packet for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract, and maps at VAAuctionPro.com.

Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email
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Matt Gallimore,
Broker/Auctioneer
Lic #2907004059

American Red Cross Issues Heat Safety Tips

According to the National Weather Service, the majority of the U.S. will experience above-normal temperatures for as long as the next week. This summer is being recorded as the hottest ever and currently, nearly 80 million people are experiencing dangerously hot temperatures as a heatwave moves across the country.

HEAT SAFETY TIPS

The Red Cross offers steps you can take to help stay safe when the temperatures soar.

Hot cars can be deadly. Never leave children or pets in your vehicle. The inside temperature of the car can quickly reach 120 degrees.

Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of fluids. Avoid drinks with caffeine or alcohol.

Check on family, friends and neighbors who do not have air conditioning, who spend much of their time alone or who are more likely to be affected by the heat.

If you don't have air conditioning, seek relief from the heat during the warmest part of the day in places like schools, libraries, theaters, malls, etc.

Avoid extreme temperature changes.

Wear loose-fitting, lightweight, light-colored clothing. Avoid dark colors because they absorb the sun's rays.

Slow down, stay indoors and avoid strenuous exercise during the hottest part of the day.

Postpone outdoor games and activities.

Take frequent breaks and use a buddy system when working outdoors.

Check on animals frequently to ensure that they are not suffering from the heat. Make sure they have plenty of cool water and shade.

Excessive heat can lead to sunburn, heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke. If someone is experiencing heat cramps in the legs or abdomen, get them to a cooler place, have them rest, lightly stretch the affected muscle, and replenish their fluids with a half a glass (about 4 ounces) of cool water every 15 minutes.

If someone is exhibiting signs of heat exhaustion (cool, moist, pale or flushed skin, heavy sweating, headache, nausea, dizziness, weakness, and exhaustion), move them to a

cooler place, remove or loosen tight clothing and spray the person with water or apply cool, wet cloths or towels to the skin. Fan the person. If they are conscious, give small amounts of cool water to drink. Make sure the person drinks slowly. Watch for changes in condition. If the person refuses water, vomits or begins to lose consciousness, call 911.

HEAT STROKE: LIFE-THREATENING

Heat stroke usually occurs by ignoring the signals of heat exhaustion. Heat stroke develops when the body systems are overwhelmed by heat and begin to stop functioning. Signs include hot, red skin which may be dry or moist; changes in consciousness; vomiting and high body temperature. Call 911 immediately if someone shows signs of heat stroke. Move the person to a cooler place. Quickly cool the person's body by immersing them up to their neck in cold water if possible. Otherwise, douse or spray the person with cold water, or cover the person with cold, wet towels or bags of ice.

WHO'S AT RISK? Heat is the leading weather-related killer in the U.S. More than 600 people in this country die every year from heat-related illnesses, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Some people are more at risk of developing a heat-related illness, including adults over 65, those with chronic medical conditions, people who work outside, infants and children, and athletes. Some may take medications that make the effects of extreme heat worse. People with heart disease, poor blood circulation, obesity and mental illness are also at risk for getting sick if the temperatures climb.

Download the free Red Cross First Aid app so you'll know what to do if emergency help is delayed and the free Emergency app for weather alerts, open Red Cross shelter locations and safety steps for different emergencies. Choose whether you want to view the content in English or Spanish with an easy-to-find language selector. Find these and all of the Red Cross apps in smartphone app stores by searching for the American Red Cross or going to redcross.org/apps.

Virginia food bank to mix aquaponics with education, food production

A new aquaponics facility will fuse philanthropic spirit with innovation when it opens its doors this fall.

The Healthy Harvest Fresh educational center and aquaponics production facility is projected to open in September. It will be adjacent to Healthy Harvest Food Bank, which serves six counties in Virginia's Northern Neck and Upper Middle Peninsula.

The facility will house a 2,000-square-foot state-of-the-art classroom and an 11,700-square-foot aquaponics production space to grow premium-quality vegetables and fish and educate visitors on the importance of fresh food and sustainable agriculture.

With aquaponics at the forefront of the operation, the facility will be "one-of-a-kind" in Virginia, said Tammy Cole, Healthy Harvest Fresh director of operations.

"It's a phenomenal concept," Cole remarked. "There are some smaller aquaponics facilities, a lot of aquaculture and hydroponics, but there's not very much aquaponics in Virginia."

Aquaponics combines fish culture and hydroponic plant production in a symbiotic recirculating system. The plants harvest the nutrients in the water generated by the fish, following a multi-step filtration process.

"We're an education center first and foremost," Cole said. With a robust team of superintendents, Virginia Cooperative Extension agents and teachers, Healthy Harvest will provide educators with "many opportunities to expand on academic principles using aquaponics as the medium."

Healthy Harvest Fresh's team of experts will offer school systems the opportunity to visit the facility for experiential learning, like testing the water, exploring plant and fish anatomy, and studying

physiology or bacteriology.

"Agricultural literacy is more than understanding where your food comes from—it's being able to make wise consumer choices, healthy decisions, and potentially even providing for yourself and your family," Cole said.

The program aims to educate and empower individuals of all ages while continuously producing fresh, locally grown food. It will supply up to 140,000 pounds of protein and produce to the food bank and local schools year-round. Excess produce will be offered to other food banks across the state in conjunction with Healthy Harvest's signature agricultural program.

One of the localities that will be served by Healthy Harvest is Essex County, and that county's Farm Bureau president, Faye Hundley, said the new facility is "a godsend to the local community."

"I'm excited to see aquaponics production happening here in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula," she added. "Healthy Harvest Fresh is implementing innovative farming techniques and providing sustainable, healthy food options year-round to those in need."

That's important because sourcing fresh, healthy products during the off-season is challenging for food banks, Cole noted.

"We're really excited about being able to provide that year-round and expand on locally sourced foods in the school food service system," she added.

"We hope to be a model for similar organizations to adopt and implement in different parts of the state, our eastern region or nationally," she said.

For updates on the facility's grand opening, visit hhfb.org or the Healthy Harvest Food Bank Facebook page or its Twitter or Instagram accounts.

Arrests reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

*Americus Dashawn Murphy, 34, of Danville, was charged July 21 with three counts of sodomy, two counts of aggravated sexual battery, and one count object sexual penetration. Deputy E. Sain was the arresting officer.

*Tommy Martin Hiatt, 38, of Sandy Ridge, N.C., was charged July 24 with one count each probation violation and fail to appear. Sgt. C. Frick was the arresting officer.

*John Albert Nester,

51, of Patrick Springs, was charged July 24 with one count each grand larceny, obtain money by false pretense, and stolen property with intent to sell. Deputy J.C. Fortner was the arresting officer.

*Jonathan Davis Grandison, 35, of Dover, OH, was charged July 25 with one count each assault and battery on LEO, obstruct justice, and contempt of court. Deputy R. Haynes was the arresting officer.

*Jay Thomas Goins, 33, no address available,

was charged July 25 with probation violation. Deputy J.G. Pickerel was the arresting officer.

*Sarah Monique Eanes, 40, of Martinsville, was charged July 27 with probation violation. Martinsville PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Charles Nicholas Doss, 25, of Asheboro, N.C., was charged July 28 with violation of release/pretrial conditions. Martinsville PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

Foothills Pet Healthcare Clinic

a veterinarian clinic that has been servicing Mt. Airy, N.C., and the surrounding area for over twenty years, has added additional regenerative medicine and rehabilitation services to its list of offerings that already include advanced orthopedic surgeries to repair cruciate injuries, fractures and patellar luxations.

"These services help our clinic stay up to date with the latest advances in companion animal medicine. It also allows our patients to access a high level of care without having to go outside the area," said Dr. Jonathan Adcock, medical director.

Regenerative medicine seeks to heal tissue that has been damaged by disease, trauma or congenital issues. Foothills Pet Healthcare Clinic now offers treatments with platelet rich plasma, stem cell therapy and laser therapy. Platelet rich plasma can be an effective treatment solution for managing pain and improving your pet's range of motion. Stem Cell therapy helps to repair and regenerate damaged or diseased tissues. Laser therapy treats a wide variety of conditions in-



Dog in Underwater Treadmill

cluding post-surgical inflammation, acute and chronic disease.

Rehabilitation services that are offered include the use of the clinic's underwater treadmill and physical therapy modalities. Underwater treadmill therapy provides strength and mobility with low impact walking, increases endurance and assists with stability and balance. Physical therapy modalities provide targeted therapeutic exercises. Patients who see benefit from underwater treadmill and/or therapeutic exercise sessions include, but not limited to, overweight or geriatric pets, patients with neurologic diseases or injuries, post-op patients and pets needing conditioning for sports or show seasons.

Adcock worked to complete Certified Companion Animal Rehabilitation Therapist certification from Northeast Seminars, housed at North Carolina State Universi-



Dr. Jonathan Adcock

ty, to be able to offer these services.

"After additional training in advanced orthopedic surgeries and offering those for several years, I saw the need to provide the additional care of regenerative and rehabilitation services to our clients in the Mt. Airy area," he said.

Foothills Pet Healthcare Clinic offers customized packages that meet individual patient needs. If you have any questions about regenerative, orthopedic or rehabilitation, call the clinic at (336) 789-0009 or visit its website at www.foothillspethealthcareclinic.com.



AUGUST MARKET EVENTS

Every Friday 8 am to 12 pm

Meet Me at the Stuart Farmers Market

August 4: Tool Sharpening Available

First Friday Summer Jam Concert Series 6pm

August 11: National Farmers Market Week Library at 10AM

August 18: Blood Pressure Checks

August 25: Monthly Master Gardeners Program & Pressure Canner Seal Checks

Open every Friday with locally grown Fruits & Vegetables, Meats, Baked Items, Eggs, Crafts & More.

Check us out on Facebook for up to date information
Stuart Farmers Market



Office of Refugee Resettlement

By U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith

In a March hearing, I asked U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra to come before my Oversight and Investigations (O&I) Subcommittee to discuss the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). I recently chaired said hearing.

ORR, an agency within HHS, is responsible for the care and placement of unaccompanied children who cross our borders.

During my opening statement, I thanked him for testifying and said even though he and I don't agree on the Biden policies that brought these children to our border, once we have taken on the responsibility for them, we must properly care for them.

During the Biden Administration, ORR has faced an unprecedented surge in the number of unaccompanied minors referred to its custody.

For reference, from fiscal years (FY) 2018 through 2020, ORR averaged around 44,500 referrals per year. As of March 31, 2023, the agency had received almost 60,000 referrals in FY2023. This puts the agency on pace for over 120,000 referrals for the third year in a row.

Evidence from whistleblowers, Inspector General reports, and news reports demonstrate a failure by ORR to competently manage the surge. This surge has led to increased exploitation and trafficking of unaccompanied minors.

During the questioning portion of the hearing, I asked Secretary Becerra about a few specific concerns I have with ORR.

First were comments that Secretary Becerra himself made. In a leaked audio recording, the Secretary was heard saying, in reference to the processing of unaccompanied minors:

"If Henry Ford had seen this in his plants, he would have

never become famous and rich. This is not the way you do an assembly line."

These comments are alarming! In April, the New York Times reported that instead of taking the necessary time and effort to properly vet the people the children were being placed with, ORR fast tracked children through their system. This has led to reports of children being forced to illegally work in dangerous and inappropriate jobs instead of being enrolled in school.

ORR does not even notify the local school system that the children have been placed in their jurisdiction.

While Secretary Becerra's comments seem to suggest that moving children out of ORR facilities quickly is more important than protecting them, the Secretary claimed that was not the case and his comments were more about overall ORR efficiency.

I also questioned the Secretary about ORR's unacceptable vetting practices of family members and sponsors.

In regard to establishing claimed familial relationships between an adult and an unaccompanied minor, I asked if the agency does DNA testing. Secretary Becerra said that the agency verifies the identity of the family member mainly through documents, like birth certificates.

This is not enough. Documents like birth certificates or passports can be forged!

DNA testing is the only way to be completely sure there actually is a family connection. *

Additionally, I questioned Secretary Becerra about ORR continuing to waive background checks not only for people claiming to be family members, but also for unrelated adults who live in the house where a child is being placed - practices that were approved by the Secretary in ORR Field Guidance 10 and 11.

Further, ORR does not generally conduct FBI background checks of sponsors.

The Secretary's responses to my questions about ORR's vetting process were far from satisfactory. I was hoping to hear that ORR would start doing FBI background checks on sponsors and DNA tests on those claiming to be family. Unfortunately, that was not the case.

These issues with ORR have been ongoing since the start of the Biden Administration.

In 2021, I visited the Emergency Intake operation at Fort Bliss, Texas, and was shocked by what I learned. There was no collaboration with law enforcement for background checks when vetting sponsors and the "background check" or "public records check" they were using were merely widely available internet search engines.

In my opening, I placed into the record a report by a statewide grand jury in Florida, charged with investigating ORR. It said:

"If any resident of Florida exposed U.S. born children to this process, they would be justifiably arrested for child neglect or worse. We do not think children should be less-protected simply because they were born outside our borders and brought here by a government agency."

I agree. In my view, as a former domestic relations attorney in Virginia, ORR's practices and actions are tantamount to child neglect. A child's legal status is irrelevant, ORR must do better.

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

*Claims of adoptive relationships are rare amongst unaccompanied minors at the border.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Note change in time for Blood Drive

The Patrick County Blood Drive is scheduled for Tuesday, August 8, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., at the John D. Hooker Building, Rotary Field. Please note the change in the time of donation.

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 Hamm's Garage, a first-time supporter of the 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, August 8.

Gene Stirewalt,
Stuart

Food Drive was success

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Patrick County Farm Bureau 2023 Peanut Butter and Jelly Food Drive. Thanks to your generous donations the Patrick County Farm Bureau's Women's Committee collected and donated more than 33 pounds of peanut butter and jelly to the Patrick County Food Bank. Donations were accepted at the Patrick County Farm Bureau office throughout the month of June.

County Farm Bureau Women's Committees across Virginia banded together to help the hungry in their communities with a classic lunchtime staple—peanut butter and jelly.

Sponsored by Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Women's Leadership Committee, participating county Farm Bureau women's committees collected peanut butter and jelly to help support regional food banks, lo-

cal food pantries and Virginia families.

The idea for the statewide effort started when Faye Hundley, chairman of VFBF Women's Leadership Committee, heard about the spike in people seeking food assistance and wanted to help. She reached out to the women's committees and began organizing the effort. "I saw on the local news where people were waiting in these long lines just to get a bag of food," she said. "So, I asked, 'What is something we can do?'" Hundley said the PB&J theme was chosen in a nod to Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom's 2020 Book of the Year, PB&J Hooray! by Janet Nolan.

Thanks again for making our peanut butter and jelly drive a success.

Sandra Heath,
Patrick County Farm Bureau Volunteer

In it together

It was a very pleasant shock to read Susan Carlan's letter in the July 19 issue of The Enterprise. And now the July 26 issue has two further letters: all of these much closer to my own feelings and beliefs than the rabid, divisive letters from Mr. Salsler.

I wrote to Mr. Salsler about a year ago. He seems to have all of the answers! I asked him just one simple question. "If God made man in the image of Himself and then noticed he was lonely. So, he put Adam to sleep and extracted a rib bone from him. God made a woman from that bone and the resulting couple

produced Cain and Able. Cain slew his brother. So now we have two males and one female. Where did the other people on Earth come from?" I never got an answer. Maybe I should have included a self-addressed stamped envelope?

I know the other letter writer in the July 19 issue of The Enterprise. I've known Joel Cannaday for probably 25 years. We have never discussed religion or politics. I have another friend who has three brothers who all are of different beliefs and politics. But they put that aside and are all on friendly terms!

Growing up in Ohio, I

had classmates who are Friends (Quakers) and I admire their philosophy of peace! I never heard an unkind word from any of them. So, yes, let us use our energy to promote unity and a better world for everybody. Who can honestly disagree with that? We truly are all in this together.

David A. Sheley,
Stuart

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The columnists' views appearing on this page do not necessarily reflect the editorial position of *The Enterprise*.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

3	8	1	2	7	5	9	4	6
9	2	4	6	1	8	3	7	5
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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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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.

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Patrick Pioneers

Willie Beamer Martin
By Beverly Belcher Woody

Last week, we learned about David Harbour Martin and Harriet Elizabeth Bowling; this week we will learn about one of their seven children, Willie Beamer Martin. Willie was born on the 15th of August 1878 in the Smith River district of Patrick County. At the age of 18, Willie married Miss Nancy Ingle Belle Handy, the daughter of William Isaac Handy and Caroline Virginia Foley of Patrick County. The young couple made their home in Trot Valley at the foot of the mountain.

The following year, 1898, Willie and Nancy's first child, Bertha Smoot was born, followed by Vergie in 1900, Hattie Mae in 1902, and Benjamin in 1904. Moir Beamer came along in 1907, John David in 1910, Richard Saunders "Buster" in 1912, and Lady Jean in 1914. Baby Wilbert Martin was born in August of 1919 but only lived seven months. Sadly, 14-year-old Benjamin had passed away the year before in 1918.

Willie and Nancy's children all grew up and married into local families; Bertha Smoot (a midwife) married James Jackson Holt, Vergie married Walter Rucker Belton, Moir Beamer (a furniture worker) married Bernice Lucy Law, John David (a salesman at Stanley Chevrolet) married Mary Williams, and Lady Jean first married Charlie Glen Ayers. Only Willie and Nancy's daughter Hattie Mae married someone that wasn't from Patrick County; she married Milton Moore from LaGrange, North Carolina. Richard Saunders, a World War II veteran, never married.

Tragically, wife and mother Nancy Ingle Belle Handy Martin died of a ruptured appendix in 1936; she was 58 years old. Willie Beamer Martin remarried on October 2, 1937, he was 59 years old and his new bride, Miss Virginia "Otra" Roberts was 17 years of age. Otra was the daughter of William Henry Roberts and Minnie Stovall of the Mayo River district.

The following year after Willie Beamer and Otra were married, their first child, Virginia Ellen Martin was born, followed by William Elbert in 1940, then Nancy Evelyn, Eva Gayle, Glen Edward, and Edna Lou. Sadly, William Elbert died at three months of age from pneumonia.

Virginia Ellen Martin married Harvey Glenn



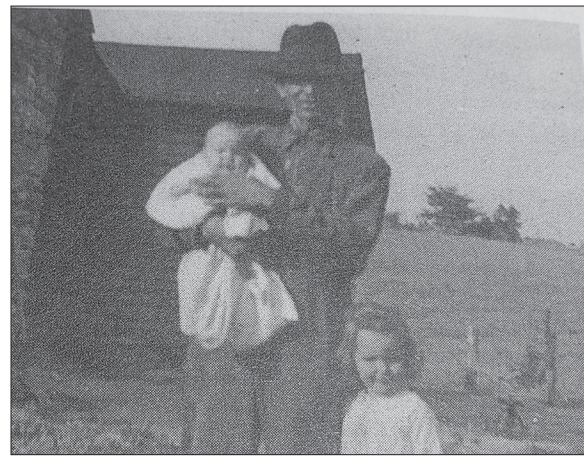
Willie Beamer Martin home.

Fulcher in 1955 and they raised six daughters together. Saying they raised six daughters isn't entirely accurate because Ellen took care of me while my parents worked in the mill, along with dozens of other children over the years! Ellen recently wrote down the names of all the children that she had kept over the past five decades and it totaled over 200 children!

Even though it has been fifty-five years since Ellen last babysat me, we still talk quite frequently. The remaining part of this column will be Ellen's words and memories of her father, Willie Beamer Martin. "My Daddy helped to build the first paved road in Patrick County. This was the old 58 that ran from Martinsville to Stuart, and he hauled sand in a two-horse wagon. Main Street in Stuart was not paved until 1929. Daddy was a saw miller; his saws were operated by steam for years. He cut the timber and milled the lumber that was used to construct High Point Baptist Church on Big A School road. Daddy lived behind the J.P. Stevens plant in Stuart in earlier years."

Ellen continued, "In January of 1938, Daddy purchased a farm from Jim Campbell called the "Sowder" farm. He bought 139 acres and a two-story house for \$3,000.00; the mailbox was one mile from the house. A trail used by horse and wagon was replaced after Daddy gave land for a road and helped put it in for free. Daddy's first tobacco crop sold for \$.03 per pound and the entire crop brought just under \$300.00. Mama and Daddy planted cane, corn, wheat, rye, oats, soybeans, and tobacco."

Ellen recalled that corn shucking's were quite the social event of the autumn season, filled with food, fun, and music. Neighbors would come from all around to help shuck corn to store



Willie Beamer Martin, daughters Ellen and Evelyn.

in the crib (pictured above) and often, the men folks found a surprise (Mason jar) in that big pile of corn. Willie Beamer could play the banjo and the organ and passed that musical talent down to many of his grandchildren, including Ellen's six daughters, who can all play the piano.

Ellen also recalled taking their corn and other crops to Sheppard's Mill near the North Carolina line and the excitement she felt when she and her sisters could find enough matching feed sacks to make new dresses.

Although Willie Beamer owned a truck in the early 1900's, he never learned to drive. Ellen related the following story, "One of my friends offered to teach Daddy how to drive. Daddy cranked the vehicle, stepped on the gas, pulled back at the steering wheel while shouting, Whoa! Whoa!. His last attempt at driving ended when he drove through one of his outbuildings. He never tried again. Daddy gave up the timber business to tend to 'his little girl'. He began farming when I was a baby, and I was his 'little helper.' Daddy raised several of his grandchildren and I grew up amongst Daddy's grandchildren and great-grandchildren."

Willie Beamer Martin passed away on November 29, 1956, at the age of 78. He lived to see Ellen's first daughter, Virginia Dianne, who was born three months before he passed away. In Patrick County, there remain many descendants of some of the fifteen children of Willie Beamer Martin. Thank you so much to Ellen Martin Fulcher for sharing the story of her father. Woody may be reached at rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com or (276) 692-9626.

Natural Remedies: A Brief History

Disease does not come without a cause. The decline of health is a consequence of injurious habits against the laws of health. Whether the cause of disease was influenced by genetics or by personal neglect of health, it can be reversed, or at least controlled. Our genes load the gun, but our lifestyle pulls the trigger. Using natural remedies is a more holistic approach; a healing of the body, mind, and soul, and seeks to ascertain the causes rather than focusing on the symptoms alone. The use of natural remedies for healing is a growing field with a history of tradition.

The use of natural remedies has Biblical origins, in which poultices and herbs were used for ailments. "And Isaiah said, Take a lump of figs. And they took and laid it on the boil, and he recovered." (2 Kings 20:7)

Natural medicine traces back to traditional Chinese medicine. Books were compiled in China on herbs.

In the 19th century, books containing detailed instructions on health, diet, foods, and remedies were written by the most translated author in the history of literature.

The use of natural remedies is to promote health and provide therapy for chronic ailments, rather than life-threatening conditions. However, when conventional medi-

cine is rendered ineffective, the use of natural remedies increases.

Once the cause of sickness is ascertained, begin immediately by working intelligently to balance your body's system. The main reason why using natural remedies is very effective is because it assists nature in her flow of healing, rather than go against it and invite complications. In sickness, one of the best remedies is to fast for one meal or two, to give the body and digestive system an opportunity to rest and "restart."

Here is an easy acronym to remember for that restart:

- N – Nutrition
- E – Exercise
- W – Water
- S – Sunshine
- T – Temperance
- A – Air
- R – Rest
- T – Trust in God

Regardless of the why people choose natural remedies, "it is a flourishing global commercial enterprise." It is so helpful to be equipped with the knowledge to prevent and treat ailments with simple, affordable, and in natural ways in the home. An ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure.

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

Social Security Matters

By Russell Gloor, National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens
Ask Rusty – When Should My Wife Claim Her Social Security Benefits?

Dear Rusty: My wife turns 65 in November of 2023. She was born on 11/21/1958. I am a year younger with an 8/1/1959 birthdate. I know my wife is not at full retirement age, but the difference in her SS payment is not much and collecting 3 years of the lower amount far exceeds her waiting until age 68. My question is: because half of my SS is more than her SS, if she retires this year, will she still get 50% of my SS when I retire? Signed: Planning Our Future

Dear Planning: Spouse benefits are one of Social Security's trickiest areas, so you're wise to get answers before either of you claim benefits. The short answer is, "No" - if your wife claims her own benefit this year, she will not get 50% of your benefit when you later claim. Here's how it works:

Born in November 1958, your wife's full retirement age (FRA) is 66 years plus 8 months, which she will attain in July 2025. Born in August 1959, your FRA is 66 years plus 10 months, which you will reach in June 2026.

benefit if her FRA entitlement is less than 50% of your FRA entitlement but, if she claims before reaching her FRA, her monthly payment when you claim will be less than 50% of your FRA entitlement (taking her own benefit early affects her total payment amount as your spouse). If, instead, your wife waits until her own FRA to claim her SS retirement benefit, her payment when you later claim will be increased to equal 50% of your FRA entitlement.

I assume your reference to your wife "waiting until age 68" refers to her age when you claim at your FRA, but there is no reason for your wife to wait past her own FRA to claim benefits because her spousal benefit will not be more if she waits longer. So, the question is whether your wife should claim this year and get a reduced payment when you later claim or, instead, wait until her FRA to claim her own benefit and get her maximum benefit later. And that depends on 1) whether your wife is working, and 2) what her life expectancy is:

1. If your wife is working and claims early SS benefits, she will be subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits how much she can earn before some benefits are taken away. The earnings limit for 2023 is \$21,240 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 she is over the limit. The earnings limit lasts until she reaches her full retirement age.
2. If your wife's life expectancy is long (average for a woman your wife's current age is about 87), then maximizing her monthly benefit by waiting until her FRA to claim is likely her smartest choice.

(See Social Security p. 7)



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Chris Buescher captures Playoff berth with win at Richmond

By **HOLLY CAIN**
NASCAR Wire Service
Chris Buescher capped Roush Fenway Keselowski Racing's dominant day at Richmond (Va.) Raceway with a trophy, holding off the field on a restart with three laps remaining to win the NASCAR Cup Series Cook Out 400 Sunday afternoon – his and the RFK team's first victory of the season.



Chris Buescher, driver of the #17 Fastenal Ford, celebrates with the checkered in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Cook Out 400 at Richmond Raceway on July 30, 2023 in Richmond, Virginia. (Photo by Sean Gardner/Getty Images)

Buescher and his teammate Brad Keselowski (also a co-owner of RFK) combined to lead a race-best 190-of-400 laps – Buescher's 88 laps out front was the most laps he's ever led in a race in his eight-year NASCAR Cup Series career. And it all results in an important automatic bid into the 16-driver Playoff field with only four races remaining in the regular season.

Buescher's No. 17 RFK Ford ultimately held off last week's race winner, Denny Hamlin by a slight .549-seconds although Buescher had held more than a five-second advantage on Hamlin's No. 11 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota up until that caution flag flew for an accident involving Noah Gragson and Daniel Suarez in the closing laps.

"It was smooth sailing trying to take care of this Fastenal Mustang, it was so good and trying to take care of it there and about the time (crew chief) Scott (Graves) said over the radio 'It's working perfect, keep it up,' and then there's a caution," said Buescher with a smile.

"But we were so strong during the race, I had a good feeling there about it," added Buescher who now has three career NASCAR Cup Series wins. "So awesome to pull it off. I'm proud of everybody. That was a long way from the back."

That late-race yellow flag was the only caution flag on the day other than the two stage breaks. And the afternoon racing at the Richmond

three-quarter mile track was physically demanding under intense heat – over 130-degrees inside the race car. As seventh-place finisher Martin Truex Jr. said smiling after the race, "my cheek feels like it's sunburned, it was like a hair dryer blowing on you."

The 30-year old Texas native Buescher, however, handled the heat and the field, starting 26th but steadily working his way forward. He first cracked into the Top-5 by lap 160 of the 400-lap race, chasing down then-leaders Bubba Wallace, Tyler Reddick, Keselowski and Hamlin.

For a race with so many green flag laps, it was actually issues on pit road that thwarted several winning efforts, not problems racing on the track.

Wallace's 80 laps out front mid-race in the No. 23 23XI Racing Toyota marked the most laps led in a single race in his career. But he ultimately had to play catch-up when his team had a slow tire change on green flag pit stop on Lap 175. He finished 12th.

With 56 laps remaining, race polesitter and Wallace's 23XI teammate Tyler Reddick got flagged for violating the commitment line com-

ing to pit road for green flag stop, relegating him from running among the Top-3 to desperately trying to remain on the lead lap with the laps counting down. He finished 16th after leading 81 laps early – every lap of Stage 1 en route to claiming his fourth stage win.

Similarly, Keselowski suffered a misstep in the pits after his No. 6 RFK Ford led a race-best 102 laps. He made an awkward turn into his pit during a green flag stop with 115 laps remaining and it cost just enough time to allow his teammate Buescher to take the lead with under 100 laps remaining.

"We wanted to finish one-two, that's the ultimate goal, but we still had a heckuva day," said Keselowski, who finished sixth and won Stage Two - his third stage win of the season.

Richard Childress Racing's Kyle Busch – the all-time active winner at Richmond – finished third; his best showing on a short track this season. Team Penske's Joey Logano rallied in the late laps to finish fourth and Stewart-Haas Racing's Ryan Preece turned in his best showing of the season with a fifth place run.

Keselowski and Truex finished sixth and seventh followed by SHR's Aric Almirola, Richard Childress Racing's Austin Dillon and SHR's Kevin Harvick. Chase Briscoe finished 11th giving SHR one of its best full team efforts of the season – all four cars inside the Top-11.

Every car in the 36-car field finished the race, the first time the full field was running at the end since 2018.

Buescher is now the 12th driver to win a race in 2023, leaving four positions still available for a new winner or the top drivers in points. Harvick and Keselowski hold more than a 100-point advantage on the 16th place cutoff. Wallace is up 54 points and Front Row Motorsports driver Michael McDowell holds an 18-point buffer on Joe Gibbs Racing rookie Ty Gibbs for that 16th place position. Kaulig Racing's A.J. Allmendinger is 22 points behind McDowell.

Four races now remain to settle the 2023 Playoff field. The series moves north next week for Sunday's Firekeepers Casino 400 at Michigan International Speedway (2:30 p.m. ET, USA Network, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio). Harvick is the defending race winner.

Tri-Area Community Health to Observe National Health Center Week

Communities across the country will celebrate National Health Center Week 2023 August 6 – August 12. Elected officials will join in recognizing the work health centers do to keep our communities healthy and safe. Their visits and messages will demonstrate that not only is it possible to move beyond the partisan divide over health care, but to support and agree on a program vital to our communities.

Health centers provide preventive and primary care services to over 30 million people and are the first to respond with wrap around care during disasters and health emergencies. Our model of care is driven by services needed in each unique community. Together, we are the backbone of the nation's primary care system. Community Health Centers lower health care costs to the tune of \$24 billion a year reducing the rate of chronic diseases and stimulating local economies.

At Tri-Area Community Health, we provide primary health care, behavioral health services, pharmacy

services, medication assistance, a sliding scale fee program, patient transportation, and diabetes education, among other services. Community Health Centers are not just healers, we are innovators who look beyond healthcare charts to address the factors that may cause poor health, such as poverty, homelessness, substance use, mental health conditions, lack of access to nutritious food, and unemployment. We are a critical piece of health care systems and collaborate with health systems; local and state governments; as well as social, health, and business organizations to improve health outcomes for people who are vulnerable.

The mission of Community Health Centers remains crucial today because access to basic care remains a challenge to over 100 million people across the country. Many people live in rural and underserved communities where there is a shortage of providers and, in many cases, the nearest medical or behavioral

health provider hospital can be 50+ miles away and in another county.

Congress must act immediately for Community Health Centers to continue to serve as health care homes. Long-term, stable funding for Community Health Centers will ensure we can keep our doors open and close the growing access gap for vulnerable communities. We are grateful that Representative Morgan Griffith, Senator Tim Kaine, and Senator Mark Warner have shown leadership in supporting/sponsoring legislation that will protect health centers from losing a major part of our funding.

Show your support during National Health Center Week by supporting a health center in your community. We will be there when you need us.

Tri-Area Community Health has locations in Ferrum, Floyd, Fries, Grayson Highlands, Laurel Fork and Behavioral Health in Stuart. For more information call 866-942-0401 or visit www.triareahealth.org.

AUGUST PATRICK COUNTY BRANCH LIBRARY 2023											
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
			1		2		3		4		5
				National Coloring Book Day and Ice Cream Sandwich Day celebrated at the library		Senior Chair Exercise 10:15				Family Movie 11:00	
				Yoga 10:00 Registration required							
	7		8		9		10		11		12
Yoga 10:00 Registration required				Yoga 10:00 Registration required		Senior Chair Exercise 10:15		Storytime at the Farmer's Market 10:00		Board Game Day	
LEGO Club 4:00				Book Bingo 2:30		Not Your Mother's Book Club 5:00					
	14		15		16		17		18		19
Yoga 10:00 Registration required		Books & Bakes 5:00		Yoga 10:00 Registration required		Senior Chair Exercise 10:15				Youth Art Program 10:30 Rainsticks	
LEGO Club 4:00				Retired Teacher's Book Club 11:00		Open Art Studio 1:00-3:00					
	21		22		23		24		25		26
Yoga 10:00 Registration required				Yoga 10:00 Registration required		Senior Chair Exercise 10:15					
LEGO Club 4:00						Charcuterie Class 2:30 Registration required					
	28		29		30		31				
Yoga 10:00 Registration required				Yoga 10:00 Registration required		Senior Chair Exercise 10:15		Interested of have questions about our programs? Call us at 276-694-3352.			
LEGO Club 4:00											

Clark

(cont. from page 1)

should probably have expired several times ago," Clark said. "After 20 years of service in various roles, my term should end, and let other younger individuals learn the path and lead us into the future."

During his more than two decades in serving the county, Clark has served on the Planning Commission, Industrial Development Authority, and the EDA, where he has worked under several different county administrators and organization directors.

Clark said getting Walmart to build a supercenter in Stuart was one of the greatest accomplishments during his tenure on the EDA.

Brokering that deal "was a biggie," Clark said. "It was a little controversial at the time about Walmart coming in. You know, the little story (that) Walmart comes to town and everybody else leaves."

"Walmart has been a good employer for a number of years," he said.

Clark said Walmart's presence has led to further development, with Wendy's and Advance Auto Parts located nearby.

"From a development standpoint," the decision "was a good one," he added.

Clark said the EDA also has worked to retain current employers, working to secure incentives for industries like Hanesbrands Inc., and Ten Oaks.

"We've developed multiple Enterprise Zones throughout the county. That has attracted businesses

and been able to expand businesses," he said, adding "there's been a lot of studies done as to what the county needs."

He noted the EDA has also felt a lot of headwinds over the years, partially because it does not get funding other than what it does itself.

"If we get grants, it's great. Other than paying the salary of the EDA director, the EDA does not get any money from the county. There's no taxpayer money that has come to the EDA," Clark said.

One thing Clark wanted to accomplish, but was unable to do, was attract a hotel to locate in the county.

"A boutique or even a name brand hotel that would spur tourism," he said, and added that was in no way intended "to take away from the world-class resort we have at Primland, but to enhance travel into the area."

Of course, not everybody can afford to stay at Primland, so this would be an alternative" for many, Clark said.

He also wanted to build a trail system, try and get some funding for a federal farm-to-table operation, and help get a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) red meat processing center started.

"There was funding available for that, but we just couldn't get enough traction for some reason on some of these items because the EDA cannot own businesses by law."

"We can have property and lease property, but we can't own a business. So, you have to get traction in the community to try and do these things," he said.

Clark said the most expensive and incomplete project that remains unfinished is the

Business Development and Recovery Center on the corner of Rucker Street and Rye Cover Road in Stuart.

"I hope this center will become both the incubator of future businesses and if necessary, a business recovery center should disaster befall a local business and they need a temporary recovery space," he said.

Clark noted the \$600,000 grant the EDA received for a mobile healthcare unit is also starting to be spent on building the unit that hopefully will bring primary healthcare options to areas in the county that need it.

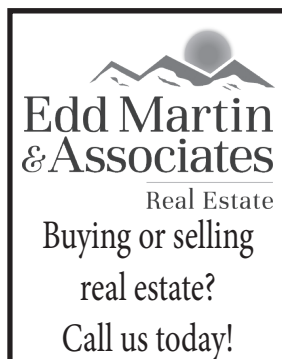
"The EDA is in the best financial condition it has seen for a long time, but the amount of liquidity it currently has is only a fraction of what it could use. It is my sincere hope that in the future, it will find the board of supervisors seeing a way to fund the EDA to grow the county," he said.

Clark said the biggest thing he will miss is trying to work through the issues of securing grants for the county's businesses. He will also miss working with the other EDA board members.

"I do absolutely wish the EDA all the best. It's an extremely strong and dedicated board, although probably 95 percent of the people in the community do not know what the EDA does," he said.

Clark noted that is probably the fault of the EDA, as "we tend not to toot our own horn" when it has successes.

"It is my hope that two-way communication between departments and the public will be improved in the future," he said. "After all, we serve the community."



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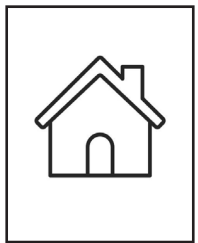
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18376 Jeb Stuart Hwy.
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County

(cont. from page 1)

rating with other departments and directors who already have grants to see how he can help them with grant management and grant applications they might not have the time to prepare.

While he is looking at some grants, Drake said he is primarily trying to wrap his head around the grants the county and school division currently have.

"I do have a couple of leads on some grants. There are not specifically any that have a deadline right now, but there's some that they missed out on in the past and they really don't want to miss out on in the future. So, we're just looking at some of those," he said.

Drake said his main goal is to look for what the county needs and help the community out by working to make it a better place.

"I just want to make a difference and do what's best for the community and help everybody out, no matter who they are or where they're at. Just to try to reach multiple grants that could benefit all walks of life," he said.

Drake believes his strength will be his experience in being put on a team managing and developing it from scratch.

As his biggest fear is not finding open grants, Drake is open to hearing from others who know of possible grants. He said there's been several opportunities in the past, with the COVID-19 pandemic making it more available to local communities.

"I just hope they continue and hopefully we can grab ahold of some of those and make them happen," he said.

Drake has been married to his wife

Rebecca, a travel nurse, for six years. The couple have three children.

A 2003 graduate from High Point University, Drake has a degree in finance.

He started his professional career working for Winn-Dixie before he took a manufacturing job where he moved up the chain from labor work to corporate accounting. He was at this job for 19 years, including six years in corporate accounting.

Drake then worked for the Rowan County, NC, Health Department for about nine years before he took a position at Smart Start Rowan for two years. He also owned his own coffee shop for two years.

In his free time, Drake enjoys riding his side-by-side, spending time in nature, and hiking.

Social Security

(cont. from page 2)

If your wife's FRA entitlement is less than 50% of your FRA entitlement, waiting until her FRA to claim will result in getting her full personal amount first and then later her maximum entitlement (including her spousal boost). If she claims now, her later payment (which includes her spousal boost) will be less than half of your FRA amount. If your wife's life expectancy is at least average, waiting until her FRA to claim will likely yield the highest cumulative lifetime benefits.

But if your wife isn't working full time, by claiming now (vs. at her FRA)

she would get her reduced personal benefit for an extra 2 years. If you divide the amount your wife would collect over those two years by the difference between her current benefit amount and her maximum spousal amount (half of your FRA entitlement), you will see how long it would take for your wife to recover those 2 years of benefits. And if her life expectancy is less than that length of time, then claiming earlier is likely the right move.

This article is intended for informa-

tion purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Ruritan Club in Stuart now official

A new Ruritan club has formed in the Stuart area. Chartering with 22 members in May, the Stuart Ruritan Club is officially now a part of Ruritan National. The club is led by President Tabitha Over-

by, Vice-president Stacy Martin, Secretary/Treasurer Pamela Smith and directors Lisa Martin, Tara Martin, and Jennifer Sink.

The club joins Ararat, Meadows of Dan, Patrick Springs, and Red Bank in Patrick County, Zone 1 in the Dan River District structure of Ruritan. The Stuart Ruritans are focusing on needs in the Stuart area, including Mental Health Awareness and local first responders and veterans' recognition.

Donations are being accepted to help the club raise funds to carry out their community service projects. The group is in the planning stages of a "Mental Health Awareness Walk" at Patrick County High School on Saturday, October 7 at 10 a.m. Members are currently selling raffle tickets and will host a "Bowl for Heroes" event in conjunction with Tin



Pictured in the front row (L-R) are Stacy Martin, Ric Rogers, Tara Martin, District Governor Barry Sides, Tabitha Overby, Jeanne Flowers, Ashley Harris, Pamela Smith, and Jayson Duncan. Back Row (L-R) Scott Martin, Lisa Martin, Kevin Smith, Ruritan National President Michael Morrison, Jennifer Sink, Stan Flowers, Stephen Overby, and Stephanie Keith. Not pictured are members Morgan Boothe, Lacy Harris, William Hines, Jude Marin, Jonathan Nowlin, Rhett Nowlin, and Patsy Sink.

Pen Alley on Friday, November 10, from 6-10 p.m.

More information will be released soon on these projects.

Email StuartRuritans@gmail.com for additional information or to RSVP to an open invitation to meeting nights. The club meets

on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Landmark Center at 7 p.m., and begins with a covered dish meal.

If you would like more information on any of the Ruritan clubs in Patrick County, call the District Lieutenant Governor, Kevin Smith at (276) 229-6493.

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God Bless You



The logo for the new Stuart Ruritan Club.

Restart of senior meeting was a 'great success'



Mrs. Judy Lacks, chairman of the planning committee for the seniors' group.



Mr. Travis Murphy, director of the Patrick County Parks and Recreation Department, invited seniors to suggest activities the department may provide.



After Junior Cassidy offered the blessing, attendees enjoyed hot pizzas, a salad and desserts.

By Joanne Hill

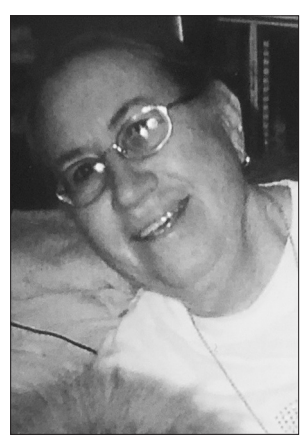
The Patrick County Seniors Group meetings restarted with great success on July 13, with an attendance of around 70 people. The John D. Hooker building was decked out in red, white and blue, and the crowd started coming in early with an air of excitement. The Landmark Center staff set up, and were ready to take blood pressure readings. Phillip Adams and his daughter were busy getting the sound system prepared.

Mrs. Judy Lacks, chairman of the planning committee for the seniors' group and at present an employee of the Recreation Department, welcomed the group and introduced Mr. Travis Murphy, the recently hired director of the Patrick County Parks and Recreation Department. He provided some information about himself and the direction of the department and invited suggestions for activities they might provide for seniors.

A program of keyboard and vocals was provided by Adams and received with delight by the group. A blessing was provided by Junior Cassidy, and hot pizzas from Lil Caesars and a salad were served by the planning committee. Many delicious desserts were provided by attendees, and no one went away hungry.

The group will meet again on August 10 at 11 a.m. at the Hooker building. Entertainment will be provided by Ramona and Junior Cassidy, and attendees are asked to bring a covered dish for this meeting. Plans are being made for lunches to be provided for future meetings by Reynolds Homestead and the Landmark Center. Entertainers will include Johnny Joyce and friends and Jimmy Handy. There will be no meeting in September because of the Patrick County Agricultural Fair.

Carol Ann Cockram, 83, of Vesta, VA, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, July 25, 2023 at Blue Ridge Therapy Connection. She was born on December 14, 1939 to the late Winters Cockram and Harvey Cockram.



sions. Carol touched many lives during her lifetime and will be missed by all family and friends. Surviving are several cousins.

She was of the Christian faith and worked at the VPI Extension Service until her retirement. Carol graduated from Meadows of Dan High School and from Averett College in Danville, VA with a degree in business. She spent most of her career, 31 years, at the VPI Extension Service in Stuart, VA.

the many pets that came through her doors. Many times, the care of her pets came before caring for herself. She was also very close to her cousin, Claudine Harding.

Carol was a member of numerous civic organizations which is a statement of her compassion and dedication for helping others. Carol was deeply dedicated to the love and care of her parents and

Friends and family remember her truck farming and keeping a booth with her parents at local flea markets. One of Carol's loves and gifts was art. Her favorite medium was oil painting. She displayed her paintings in local art competitions where she placed first on several occasions.

Barbara Jean Hagwood Reynolds

Mrs. Barbara Jean Hagwood Reynolds, age 82 of Stuart, passed away Friday, July 28, 2023, at her home. She was born on September 28, 1940, in West Virginia to the late Sherman Hagwood and Hattie Burnette Hagwood. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a daughter, Jennifer A. Penn; two brothers, Jim Hagwood and Pastor Roland Hagwood. Barbara was a member of Mt. Nebo True Gospel Holiness Church.



Church, 30598 Jeb Stuart Hwy, Spencer, VA 24165. Online condolences may be sent to www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Surviving is her husband of 44 years, Julius Reynolds of the home; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Anthony Penn of Stuart, Sean and Kimberly Reynolds of Patrick Springs; seven grandchildren, Nancy Hairston, Trenna Redd, Tony Thomas, Jessica Thomas, Courtney

Nowlin, Kelly Johnson, Kiran Penn; six great grandchildren; a sister, Vickie Cecil of Cleveland, OH; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held Sunday, July 30, 2023, at 2:00 PM at Mt. Nebo True Gospel Holiness Church with Elder John Hagwood officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Mt. Nebo True Gospel Holiness

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Surry Cellars Wins Best Red at 2023 N.C. Fine Wine Competition

Surry Cellars, the label for wine produced at Surry Community College through its Viticulture and Enology Program, took away the “Best Red” award at the 2023 N.C. Fine Wine Competition with the Tannat Reserve 2019 red wine.

The N.C. Fine Wine Competition is recognized by the industry as one of the toughest competitions in the United States. All judges are level three advanced sommeliers and perform blind taste tests with no discussion among the judges during testing. This year’s competition was held at Fine Wines of NC in Winston-Salem during April. Thirty-four wineries participated in the event.

The award-winning Surry Cellars Tannat Reserve 2019 was produced entirely in the vineyard and on the campus of Surry Community College at the Shelton-Badgett N.C. Center for Viticulture and Enology. The Tannat variety, which is a thick-skinned, drought resistant grape originally grown in Southwest France, was planted in the SCC vineyard in 2015. At the time, it was not a popular variety among N.C. grape growers. Now however, David Bower, SCC Winemaker and Enology Instructor notes, “After this, I think you’ll see more people planting it in our region. It’s definitely a successful variety.”

Weather conditions in late summer 2019 allowed for the grape harvest to occur near the end of September, which is later than most harvests and helped contribute to its quality. The grapes were processed and put into barrels in early 2020. At all checkpoints, the Tannat wine had a rich, deep color with a very healthy fermentation. By 2021, the instructors knew they had a potential winner.

Both instructors were quick to point out how instrumental the viticulture and enology students, who worked on this wine were, from the field to the bottle. Bowman commented, “Winning this award was a real confidence builder for the students. They saw they could produce a top tier wine for the state.”

Bower noted how the students, as well as a product like the Tannat Reserve 2019, benefitted the whole N.C. wine industry by saying, “This award is a combination of everything we have been working on as a team. The students’ hard work was rewarded. They can say they had a hand in this and apply it to their careers. The award also helps the entire industry grow and fights the stigma that N.C. wines are not as good as California wines.”

Judges for the competition look at the varietal typicity (what the variety tastes like) and the regional typicity (what the region has to offer) using the Wine Spectator Top 100 point system, a scale based on criteria set forth by Wine Spectator, which is an organization internationally known as a leading authority on wine. The higher the score, the better the wine. Surry Cellars’ Tannat Reserve 2019 scored close to 100.

Surry Community College is the only college east of California that can instruct students

with hands-on experience in winemaking, from growing and harvesting the fruit, to processing it in a bonded winery, and then taking it through the bottling line. Even the label for the wine was created from student artwork.

“Students get so much experience here,” said Bower, “especially on training methods, equipment, and learning about the variety and species of grapes grown. Ninety percent of the wine made in the United States is grown in California, but learning the process here is affordable and accessible.”

Bowman added, “Surry Community is a great place to learn this industry. If you can succeed in growing grapes and making wine in a challenging area like the Yadkin Valley, you can apply it elsewhere.”

Bower also added, “Our program has consistently, and being consistent is key, won awards, and we have consistently grown and adapted. This shows the versatility of our program and what we offer. It’s not that we suddenly just got good. We’ve been great for a while.”

“Without our students, this wouldn’t happen,” said Bowman. “The SCC wine is student grown and student made. Instructors are here to guide them.”

Bower finalized by saying, “Anyone of any level can take classes in SCC’s Viticulture and Enology Program. We want people to take our classes.” Surry Community College offers a degree, diploma, and certificate options in viticulture, enology, tasting room operations, and wine marketing.

The Shelton-Badgett N.C. Center for Viticulture and Enology at SCC, which opened in 2009, contains classrooms, a climate-controlled wine cellar, microbiology labs, assembly hall, and a 2,500 gallon licensed and bonded teaching winery. The five-acre teaching and demonstration vineyard provides students with hands-on experience and exposure to a wide range of wine grape production techniques. The center has recently expanded to include the 5,000 square-foot Sustainable Agriculture Building with classroom space, farm equipment workshop, controlled environment crop production space. A new Agrichemical Building is used for safe and responsible pesticide storage and handling. The program incorporates sustainable practices wherever possible. All bottles are made from recycled glass and weigh 35 percent less than regular wine bottles. Additionally, the bottles are not finished with a polythermal or plastic cover, making them more environmentally friendly.

If you’d like to learn more about SCC’s Viticulture and Enology Program, visit surry.edu/wine, ncviticulturecenter.surry.edu or email Sarah Bowman, Viticulture Instructor, at bowmanse@surry.edu or David Bower, Enology Instructor, at bowerd@surry.edu. You may also contact Jeff Jones, Division Chair of Sciences, at jonesjr@surry.edu or (336) 386-3391. SCC is currently registering students for Fall 2023 classes that begin Aug. 17.



Sarah Bowman, SCC Viticulture Instructor (left), and David Bower, SCC Enology Instructor (right), proudly display a bottle of the Tannat Reserve 2019, which won a gold medal and the best red award at the 2023 N.C. Fine Wine Competition. If you’d like to find out more about the Viticulture and Enology program at Surry Community College, visit surry.edu/wine or call (336) 386-3391.



The Shelton-Badgett North Carolina Center Viticulture & Enology located at Surry Community College is a state-of-the-art building with a climate-controlled wine cellar, microbiology labs, assembly hall, and a 2,500-gallon licensed and bonded teaching winery. If you’d like to find out more about the Viticulture and Enology program at Surry Community College, visit surry.edu/wine or call (336) 386-3391.



The five-acre teaching and demonstration vineyard at Surry Community College provides students with hands on experience and exposure to a wide range of wine grape production techniques. If you’d like to find out more about the Viticulture and Enology program at Surry Community College, visit surry.edu/wine or call (336) 386-3391.

Farmers discuss farm bill priorities with congressional representatives

As the 118th Congress prepares to debate the 2023 Farm Bill in September, lawmakers and farmers met to discuss priorities most important to Virginia’s agricultural producers.

Maple Springs Farm in Augusta County was a tranquil venue for a July 17 round-table event hosted by Rep. Ben Cline, R-6th, with Rep. Glenn “GT” Thompson, R-15th, a Pennsylvania congressman and chair of the House Committee on Agriculture.

Among the farm bill’s 12 titles are provisions for commodity programs like dairy margin coverage and agricultural workforce development.

Thompson, a writer of the farm bill, shared his outlook as legislators draft the five-year omnibus spending package.

“Our goal is we do this in a bipartisan way, on time and highly effectively,” he said. “The overall vision is to restore a robust rural economy.”

Virginia’s dairy farmers weighed in on their priorities, like modernizing Dairy Margin Coverage. The DMC is an insurance program in which producers pay premiums for protection when the difference between the milk price and the average feed price, or margin, falls below a certain dollar amount.

“The prices for milk right now are pretty dire, and our margins are not there as they should be,” said Kevin Craun, com-

missioner of the Virginia State Milk Commission. “All we’re looking for is a safety net. We don’t want our income from the government. No farmer does.”

The DMC program, enacted in the 2018 Farm Bill, has been successful, though it could use more modernization, as coverage is based on outdated production records, said Eric Paulson, executive director of the Virginia State Dairymen’s Association.

Dairies are lost or concentrated during challenging times, Thompson acknowledged.

“The average farm size gets bigger as we have fewer of them,” he explained. “We’ll deal with the safety nets in the farm bill.”

Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer Thomas French, a Shenandoah County dairyman, thanked Thompson for his work on the Agriculture Labor Working Group and asked to see an adjustment of status for agricultural workers. Livestock producers don’t have access to seasonal H-2A labor because they operate year-round.

The group’s upcoming interim report will examine variables impacting the uncertainty of the agricultural workforce and implications on food security, Thompson said.

“Then we’ll be writing an American food security bill as it relates to the ag workforce.”

Initial claims stuck at pre-pandemic levels

The number of initial claims for unemployment insurance decreased in the latest filing week to 2,293 but remained at the typical pre-Pandemic volumes experienced in 2019, the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) announced last week.

For the filing week ending July 22, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 2,293, which was a decrease of 131 claimants from the previous week. Continued weeks claimed totaled 13,714, which was 18 claims higher than the previous week and an increase of 25.7% from the 10,914 continued claims from the comparable week last year. Ninety-three percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry, of those reported over half (57 percent) of continued claims were from professional, scientific, and technical services (1,927), administrative and support and waste management (1,880), health care and social assistance (1,322), manufacturing (1,199), and accommodation and food services (1,015). 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 July 22, the advance U.S. figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 221,000, a decrease of 7,000 from the previous week’s unrevised level of 228,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs[1], unadjusted, totaled 213,677 in the week ending July 22, a decrease of 44,487 (or -17.2 percent) from the previous week. There were 200,929 initial claims in the comparable week in 2022. Looking at preliminary data, most U.S. states reported decreases on a seasonally unadjusted basis. New York’s preliminary weekly change (-9,358) was the largest decrease. California’s preliminary weekly change (-4,419) was the second largest decrease. Georgia’s preliminary weekly change (-3,113) was the third largest decrease. Pennsylvania’s preliminary weekly change (-2,787) was the fourth largest decrease. Virginia’s preliminary weekly change (-22) was among the smallest decreases.

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Meetings

Wednesday, Aug. 9
The Patrick County Economic Development Authority (EDA) will meet at 7 p.m. in the second-floor conference room.

Thursday, Aug. 10
The Patrick County School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the school board office.

Monday, Aug. 14
The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will meet at 6 p.m. in the third-floor court room of the Patrick County Administration Building.

Wednesday, Aug. 16
Stuart Town Council meets at 7 p.m. in the Town Office.

Events

Friday, Aug. 4
The Woolwine Methodist Food Truck will be at the Woolwine Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) from 3-4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 5
Faith Community Church will hold its 5th annual potluck at 4 p.m. There will be a barbecue, singing, and silent auction.

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&H-CC) will hold a Basic Contractor Licensing class from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$189. Pre-registration is required by going to ph.august-soft.net or calling (276) 656-0260.

A Grilled Chicken Plate fundraiser will be held at New Hope Church of the Brethren in Elamsville from 4-7 p.m. Plates include green beans, corn, slaw, roll, dessert, & drink. Eat in or take out. Plates are \$8 each, and funds will go to support the Haitian Orphanage.

Faith Community Church's 5th Annual Potluck begins at 4p.m. with Barbecue, Singing & Silent Auction Swiftcreek, Josh Marlowe & Friends and Brad Doss & Friends and guests Tee's Full Throttle. Barbecue provided, bring your favorite fixins to 3836 Iron Bridge Road, near Fairy Stone Park.

Sunday, Aug. 6
The Bowman Reunion will start at 11 a.m. at the Red Bank Community Building. Everyone is invited.

Thursday, Aug. 10
The Buffalo Ridge Community Crime Watch meeting will be at 7 p.m. at the Sycamore Baptist Church. The guest speaker will be Trey

Joyce from Branch Civil speaking on the U.S. 58 Lovers Leap construction project.

Saturday, Aug. 12
For Goodness "Snakes" Alive (and Amphibians too), learning program, 2 p.m. Fairy Stone State Park. Shelter 4.

Sunday, Aug. 13
Pleasant View Baptist Church will celebrate Homecoming with Dr. Wayne Falson, Executive Director of Virginia Baptist, as the guest speaker. Lunch will be served following the morning service.

The Boyd Family Reunion will start at 12 p.m. at the Vesta Community Center. Family and friends are welcome, and folks are encouraged to bring a covered dish and their musical instruments. For more information, call Chris Boyd at (336) 344-2365 or Benny Pendleton at (276) 952-2120.

Wednesday, Aug. 16
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, Aug. 18
The Woolwine Methodist Food Truck will be at the Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department from 3-4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 19
The seventh annual Bike Ride, Car Show, and Fish Fry at the Mt. Nebo Holiness Church. Registration for the ride starts at 9 a.m., and riders leave at 10 a.m. Registration for the car show starts at 9 a.m. and ends at 10:30 a.m. when judging begins.

Monday, Aug. 21
A second meeting to gauge interest for a new Ruritan Club in the Woolwine/Fairystone area will be held at 7 p.m. at the Woolwine Volunteer Fire Department. Anyone interested in helping the community is invited to attend. Address questions to Kevin Smith, (276) 229-6493.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS

Saturday, Aug. 5
Minnie's Chapel will hold its Vacation Bible School from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The theme is Pets Unleashed.

Sunday, Aug. 6
Salem Church will hold its Vacation Bible School from 12:30-5 p.m. at 159 Salem Church Road, Patrick Springs.

Ongoing

Messianic Bible Study, Fridays from 6-7:30 p.m. Event is for anyone wanting a deeper understanding of the Old Testament and how it relates to us now. Come and discover the Hebrew side of the Christian Faith during the meetings held at The Honey Pot, 106 N. Main St., Stuart (across from The Coffee Break). Call (276) 694-2356 for more information.

The Patrick County Parks and Recreation Office is now accepting football registration for the 2023-24 school year. Students who are currently in grades K-7 are eligible to participate in the recreation department's football program. Registration forms are available at any elementary school or parents can call the recreation office at (276) 694-3917 to register children. The deadline for registration is Friday, September 8. Games will begin the first week of October.

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's LEGO Club with Ms. Sam is held on Mondays from 4:30-5:30 p.m. This program is mainly intended for school age children. For more information, call (276) 694-3352.

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 will hit the pavements along the sidewalks in town on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

The Ararat Ruritan Club will hold 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.

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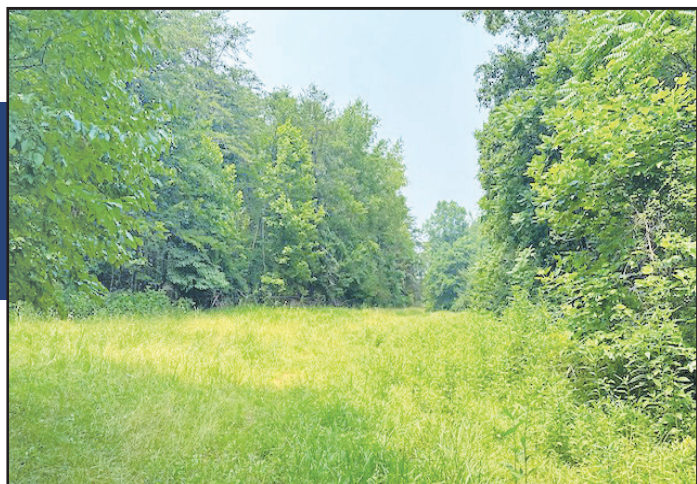
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ONLINE AUCTION

Ends Friday, August 25th at 3 PM

Large Wooded Retreat for Sale at Auction in Martinsville VA
TBD Green Acres Circle, Martinsville, VA 24112

Bid Now at VAAuctionPro.com



Check out this exceptional opportunity to own a remarkable wooded retreat in Martinsville VA. This land is richly adorned with a stand of mature Virginia Pines and hardwoods, offering a great escape from the hustle and bustle of city life. This +/- 71.03 acre property provides ample space for your vision. The front portion offers level terrain, providing perfect locations for a dream home or secluded cabin. There are endless opportunities for hunting, camping, and recreation. Enjoy the wildlife and beauty provided by Tanyard Branch. Located conveniently behind the Green Acres Trailer Park, this property offers the best of both worlds with exclusion and easy access to amenities, schools, shopping, and dining options. Do not miss your opportunity to own this extraordinary property! Refer to Bidder Packet at VAAuctionPro.com for VA Forestry Stewardship Plan and Map.

Terms - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$10,000 required on the day of sale. Close on or before October 9th, 2023. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the Auction, Bidder Packet, and/or Pre-Auction offers received. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract, and maps at VAAuctionPro.com.

CONTACT - Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email gallimore.matt@gmail.com.

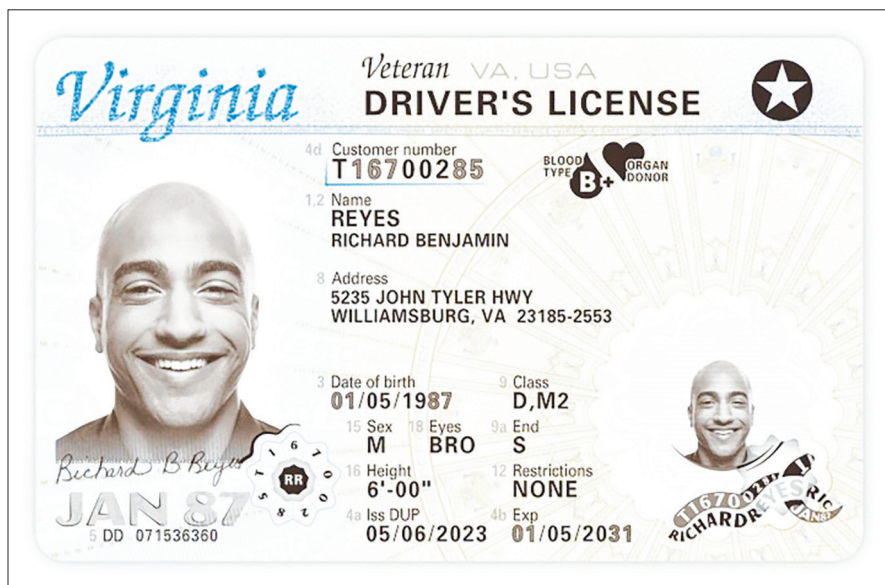
You can also contact Realtor Michael Stevens at 276-952-8443 or email MichaelStevensRealtor@gmail.com.

102 S. Locust Street,
Floyd, VA 24091
(540) 745-2005
VAAuctionPro.com
Lic# 2907004059



Blue Ridge Land & Auction Co., Inc.

Blood type can now be listed on VA driver's license or ID



Virginians may now choose to indicate their blood type to include on their driver's license to assist first responders in the event of an emergency.

Virginians have the option to indicate their blood type when they renew or replace their driver's license or ID at dmv.virginia.gov or in-person at any Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)

customer service center. Customers who are applying for a license or ID for the first time must visit a customer service center in person.

If you renew or replace your credential online, you will be prompted with a question whether you'd like to indicate blood type during the transaction. Choosing to have your blood type dis-

played on your license or ID is optional. The blood type will be displayed in a small icon on the front of your license or ID.

It is not required to show proof of your blood type if you'd like it to appear on your credential. It is your responsibility to self-certify, and make sure you have your correct blood type.

"The law was intended to aid individuals and first responders when every second counts in an emergency," said DMV Commissioner Gerald Lackey. "DMV is proud to provide Virginians with options. On your driver's license or ID, you can indicate not only your blood type, but also your willingness to be an organ donor, your veteran status and can even list important medical indicators."

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Pills not from a licensed pharmacy can be deadly.

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Opioids, stimulants, meth, and heroin laced with Fentanyl are increasingly linked to overdose in Martinsville and Henry, Franklin, and Patrick Counties. An amount the size of a few grains of salt can be deadly.

Call our warmline for help:

Henry & Patrick Counties 276-638-7337



StopOverdose.info



Blue Ridge Land & Auction Co., Inc.

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102 S. Locust Street, Floyd, VA 24091

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FEATURED LISTINGS



BASSETT, VA

This historical home was built in 1837 and features a lot of its original character. There are 4 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, and 4 non-conforming bedrooms. The home sits on 9.26 acres. **\$495,000**



ARARAT, VA

This beautiful building lot in the Seven Springs Subdivision! This 6.319 acre property offers some breathtaking mountain views and would be ideal for the construction of your vacation or mountain home. **\$75,000**



STUART, VA

Check out this building lot, located 5 minutes from Stuart and 3 minutes from Patrick Springs. The lot is mostly level and would make a great place to build a new home. **\$15,000**



PATRICK SPRINGS, VA

This 4 acre lot would be a nice size lot would be great to build a home on. It is located approximately 15 minutes from Stuart and 35 minutes from Martinsville. **\$18,000**



STUART, VA

Buildable lot located right off Highway 58. It is 30 minutes from Martinsville and 10 minutes from Stuart. This lot is also 1 mile from the Gordon Trent Golf Course. **\$25,000**



BASSETT, VA

This completely wooded 33.11 acre tract offers over 1,500' of frontage on Warehouse Street. The large tract would be ideal for hunting, ATV riding, or building your dream home on. **\$79,900**



PENDING

MEADOWS OF DAN, VA

Stunning 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home on 10.15. acres of land located just minutes from the Blue Ridge Parkway. Property offers an amazing view of the Blue Ridge Mountains! **\$549,000**



SOLD

WOOLWINE, VA

Beautifully maintained 2 bedroom, 2 bath home on 11.29 acres of land. Home is nestled at the end of a country road making for great seclusion and privacy! **\$400,000**

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Interested in selling? Our Jumpstart Program might be the answer! Contact us today for more information at (540) 745-2005.

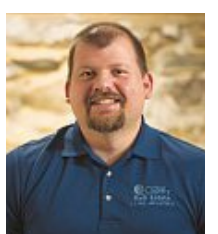


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Matt Gallimore,
Broker/Auctioneer
Lic.#0226000240