



THE ENTERPRISE

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

AARP Poll Shows Virginia Voters Support a Prescription Drug Affordability Board

By Staff Reports

Regardless of their political affiliation, Virginia voters strongly support the creation of a Prescription Drug Affordability Board to rein in drug prices and are more likely to vote for candidates who endorse the policy, according to a

recently released AARP Virginia voter survey.

Sen. Bill Stanley, who supported the legislation in the Senate in 2023 and plans to push for it again next year, said the creation of the board is important.

"In my district, the two-thirds of Virginians

taking prescription drugs are making life or death decisions on a monthly basis – whether to spend money on drugs, put food on the table, or keep a roof over their head," said Stanley, R-Moeta. "To sacrifice life for the sake of profit is not

(See AARP p. 7)

County wins multiple awards for tourism efforts



The Patrick County Office of Tourism was awarded the Best Print Ad Marketing Budget \$50,000 or More, Patrick County Tourism Virginia Living – Wine Ad. James Houchins, director, is pictured with the award.



Rebecca Adcock, executive director of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce, is also pictured with the Best Magazine Guide Marketing Budget \$50,000 or More Patrick County Tourism Patrick County Magazine (Fall 2022).

The Patrick County Office of Tourism won multiple awards Tuesday at Friends of Southwest Virginia's fourth annual Celebrate Tourism Summit.

The Office of Tourism, under the leadership of

James Houchins, competed with 19 counties and four independent cities in the Southwest Virginia area.

Patrick County was recognized for the "Best

Print Ad" for localities with a marketing budget of at least \$50,000 for its wine ad in Virginia Living magazine. The Tourism office also received first-

(See County p. 7)



Patrick County Sheriff's officers and others prepare food for those attending the event in Stuart to mark National Night Out.

National Night Out event gives back to the community

By Pat Delaney

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office threw a party for a few hundred friends during the National Night Out event last week.

"It is a time for us as law enforcement to give back to the community and show our appreciation for all the folks we serve," Sheriff

Dan Smith said at the event held at Alice T. DeHart Memorial Park in Stuart on August 1.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods

(See Night Out p. 11)

Book Tour to kick off at library

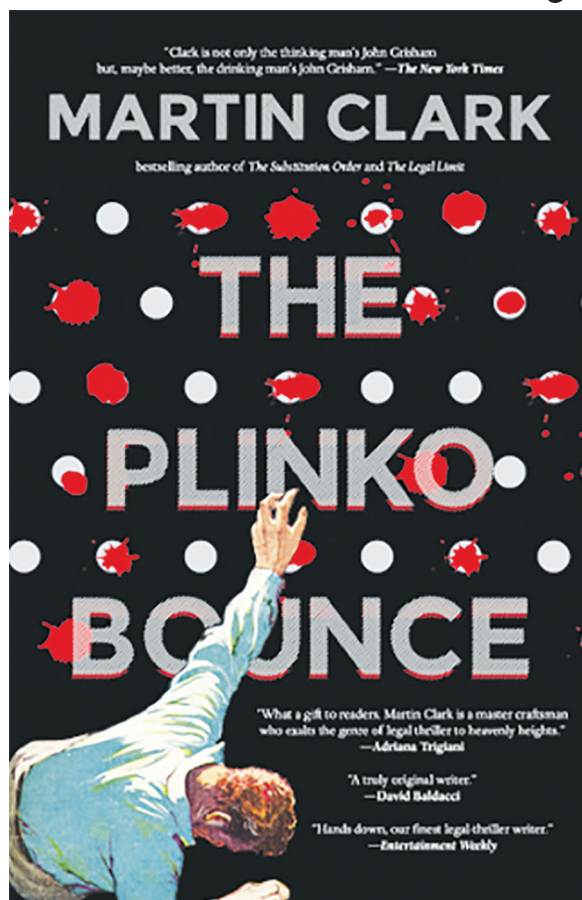
Mark your calendar now for the September release of Martin Clark's latest book, "The Plinko Bounce."

A retired circuit court judge from Patrick County, Clark plans to kick off his book tour once again with a book signing and celebration at the Patrick County Branch Library on September 12, from 3:30-8 p.m. The profits from that event will be used to fund a \$10,000 scholarship in memory of Ann Belcher, with the winner announced at the event.

Like all of Clark's previous novels, his latest book is set in Virginia, primarily in Patrick and Henry counties. It features Virginia courts and is populated by both real and fictional Virginia attorneys and judges, making for a great local connection. His last book, The Substitution Order (Knopf 2019), was a New York Times Editors' Choice, the winner of the Library of Virginia's People's Choice Award and has been optioned. He was awarded the Virginia State Bar's Harry L. Carrico Professionalism Award in 2018 for his work in his "day job" as a circuit court judge.

Clark is a cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Davidson College and attended law school at the University of Virginia. When he was appointed to the bench in 1992 at age 32, he became one of the youngest judges in the history of the commonwealth. His novels have appeared on numerous bestseller lists, and the audio version of The Substitution Order was a number one national bestseller. Additionally, his

(See Book Tour p. 7)



Pictured is the front cover of Martin Clark's latest book, "The Plinko Bounce."

Hearing on solar portion of comp plan set for Tuesday

By Taylor Boyd

The Patrick County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to adopt the Comprehensive Plan Conformance Review Application with Fairy Stone Solar, LLC on Tuesday, August 15.

The hearing will be held at 6 p.m. in the community room at Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) – Stuart site.

Since the county has no zoning, the company contacted the county, Dominika Sink, Senior Director of Project Acquisition and Development with Energix US, LLC, a renewables company based in Arlington, VA., said in March.

A certification form signed by a county official was necessary for the company to engage with the state Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for a Permit By Rule (PBR), which was filed in December 2021.

Two land parcels were referenced on the certification form — parcel numbers 4911-72 and 4811-37.

A deed to one of the land parcels which contains two tracts of land, about 79 acres, is located in the Mayo River District. It is in the name of Nash J. Heath, of Belleview, FL, according to records from the Patrick County Circuit Court Clerk's Office.

The other land parcel – more than 91 acres in the Mayo River District, is owned by Five Rock Cidery, LLC, a Virginia Limited Liability Company with a post office box in Belleview, FL, according to land records.

Sink has said the remaining parcels — 4811-88 and 4811-88-A — are owned by Charles Hamm.

Larry Cowley, chairman of the Planning Commission for the Mayo River District, said the hearing is the next step since the county has a Comprehensive Plan, but does not have zoning ordinances.

"All it says is that they (Fairy Stone) are substantially in accord" with the county's Comprehensive Plan, "and it allows them to go to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and start the permitting process," he said.

Cowley said this is only applicable to the application filed by Fairy Stone. Other potentially interested solar companies will have to go through the same process.

"I don't see anything that it changes as far as our Comprehensive Plan or the requirements that we had for someone to come in," he said.

Anyone wishing to view the application can do so at the Tax Mapping office in Suite 215 of the Patrick County Administration Building.

Chamber Chat



By **Rebecca Adcock**

Time flies when you are having fun and staying busy. July was no exception. While our programming slowed this month, we were busy with office work in the air conditioning. Kudos to those who had

to work out in the heat. I attended the Women Impact Virginia event hosted by the Reynolds Homestead. It was a great inspiring and informative event. If you get a chance, check out their state conference coming up in Roanoke in October.

We hosted a double ribbon cutting on July 27 at the Woolwine Early Learning Center located in the Methodist Church in Woolwine and The Back Yard Cow, located beside the Woolwine Elementary School. The chamber

is so excited to see this type of investment in our county. We look forward to more openings.

Office work is never ending, and as we move forward, planning now will help alleviate frustration in the fall. That is the plan anyway.

The Patrick County Agricultural Fair is coming up around the corner, so getting booth layout and information ready has been a task. The award-winning Patrick County Magazine is being finalized with ads and articles and should be available

for readers at the fair.

We have also been busy with inputting children into the Dolly Parton Imagination Library system and fundraising for that program. Thank you to our anonymous donor who contributed \$1,300 to the program. The money raised will ensure any child in Patrick County aged 0-5 years old and registered will receive a book in the mail each month. More information is available on our website.

I was interviewed the other night by BTW21

and asked about the state of Patrick County. My answer was that we are a kettle about to "blow the lid off" in a good way. We have momentum and are getting people into key positions and working together to help drive this county further.

We welcome a new EDA director in August, and hopefully a new county administrator in September. Once they are in place and learn the ropes, we can all come together to work toward a better future for Patrick County.

Upcoming events include a ribbon cutting at Skyline National Bank in Meadows of Dan at 12 p.m. on August 18, and Business After Hours at The Mayberry Trading Post August 22, 5 to 7 p.m.

Welcome our new members: The Back Yard Cow, Skyline National Bank, Stargazer Park, Branch Civil, and Sunnyside Communities – King's Grant Retirement Community.

(Adcock is the executive director of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce.)

Tourism Talks

Hello Patrick, It's been said that Virginia's weather can change in just 15 minutes, especially in our county. I can confirm that I've witnessed this happen more than once.

Tuesday, August 1, was a perfect example of this sudden weather change. We went from sweltering heat to a cool and breezy day. I'm happy to report that the National Night Out event was a huge success. Deputy Doug Perry did an excellent job hosting the event in collaboration with Sheriff Dan Smith and the entire department. Our Community Health Services and Community Support Groups were present and shared valuable information. We were also thrilled with Olivia Jo's concert, and Tourism is proud to have hosted her.

On the day of the event, our department also attended the Celebrate Tourism Summit at the Wytheville Meeting Center. I'm delighted to share that we brought home several awards.

These Tourism Awards were open to tourism organizations, individuals involved in tourism and economic development, and tourism-related businesses in the Southwest Virginia region. Our team won awards for Best Print Ad, Best Magazine Guide, Outstanding New Tourism Business of the Year, and Grace Cooper, who won the Rising Star Award. Our staff, partners, Silver Lining Designs, and the Chamber of Commerce are all honored to receive these awards. As the Director of Tourism, I'm proud to have such a fantastic team. We will continue to bring more activities, events, and shows to our county, revive traditions, and introduce new ones. Thank you, Patrick County, for your support. We invite you to; "Come Get Lost and Find Yourself Here." (jhouchins@co.patrick.va.us)

I'll be in touch soon.
Best regards,
James Houchins,
Director of Tourism



REAL ESTATE AUCTION

Live & Online Bidding
Tuesday, August 29 at 12:00pm
360 Rorrer Lane, Stuart, VA
60± Acres with Farmhouse in Patrick County, VA
Preview the Property:
Tuesday, August 22 & Sunday, August 27, 4:00pm-6:00pm

60± Acres with Farmhouse and Multiple Outbuildings
Views from upper side of property. Ideally secluded and private.
A great property for recreation or hunting.

Visit website for more details RogersAuctionGroup.com

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

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 Boogie Dehart at
276-952-5061 or email BoogieD@yahoo.com

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.

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Grassroots organization expands its impact, announces first round of grantees

Grassroots Grants, the newest initiative of One Family Productions, announced its inaugural award recipient, Vincent's Legacy. The awarding of these funds represents an expansion of OFP's mission to include direct investment in and financial support of education, creative placemaking, art, and culture in the community.

Vincent's Legacy is a nonprofit organization from Mount Airy, N.C., honoring the life and legacy of Vincent Puckett by spreading kindness and ensuring parents and children know the available resources when dealing with mental illness and bullying. Vincent's parents Roxane and Cary started the organization as a way to help educate others on the effects of bullying and prevent bullying-related suicide. One special program they created is called "Kindness Rocks!" "Kindness Rocks" are more than just rocks; they're little bits of kindness and love that travel the world. Vincent's Legacy takes pride in keeping its communities stocked with these little treasures. Whether it's with Kindness Rock Gardens at local schools, parks or simply hiding a rock around town, they make sure there is always a Kindness Rock around. According to the grant submission, Vincent's Legacy plans to spread the Kindness Rocks project to Patrick County by creating a local Kindness Rock Garden in the Patrick Springs community. Rock Gardens serve to brighten someone's day and to allow that kindness to be paid forward. Take a rock, give a rock or leave a rock.

One Family Productions opened applications for the first award cycle of Grassroots Grants in March, and was able to review five project outlines from various community members in early June. Using the vision and mission of Grassroots Grants as guidelines for review, one impact-oriented project was awarded funding in a total of \$1,000. Grassroots Grants is funded by donations from the community, annual allocations from One Family Productions' operating funds, and fundraising efforts at OFP music events, such as First Friday Summer Jam Series and Front Porch Fest.

OFP Outreach committee member Kristin Hylton said, "Every application we received was worth careful consideration. All the applicants had innovative ideas, and the review committee had to be very specific in adhering to the goals of Grassroots Grants when deciding which projects to fund at this time. In alignment with our goals, we will offer advice to our grantees as well as the other applicants to help support their projects and connect them with resources in our community."

Grassroots Grants will continue to accept proposals on a rolling basis and award microgrants to innovative people and organizations within the community that present fresh, creative, and impactful project plans. More information on Grassroots Grants and the full application are available on the OFP website. www.onefamily-productions.org/grassroots-grants/.

Arrests reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

*Keondre Holmes, 31, of Patrick Springs, was charged July 28 with one count each assault, strangle, and violation of protective order. Inv. Tennille E. Jessup was the arresting officer.

*Michael Paul McAdams, 28, of Bassett, was charged July 28 with one count each fail to appear, fail to appear felony offense, and contempt. Deputy M.R. Hodges made the arrest for Martinsville PD.

*Raven Baylee Johanknecht, 27, of Bassett, was charged July 28 with one count each identity theft and probation violation: possess heroin. Deputy A. Kinney made the arrest for Henry County.

*Ronald Scott Richards, Jr., 31, address not listed, was charged July 29 with probation violation. Wythe County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Elizabeth Anne Swinney, 28, of Fieldale, was charged July 30 with drive while license revoked/suspended. Senior Trooper J.M. Hylton was the arresting officer.

*Keondra Holmes, 31, of Patrick County Jail, was charged Aug. 1 with protective order violation. Inv. Tennille E. Jessup was the arresting officer.

*Stefanee Nikole Davis, 23, of Mt. Airy, N.C., was charged Aug. 3 with probation violation. Sgt. C.A. Frick was the arresting officer.

*Betsy Lynn Irvin, 37, of Stuart, was charged Aug. 3 with grand larceny. Deputy A. Kinney was the arresting officer.

*Airelle Bianca Nowlin, 25, of Patrick Springs, was charged Aug. 3 with assault. Deputy M.R. Hodges was the arresting officer.

*Matthew Lamar Neace, 30, of Stuart, was charged Aug. 4 malicious bodily injury. Sgt. C.A. Frick was the arresting officer.

Calls to replace Medicare cards likely scams

Have you received a call to replace your expiring red-white-blue card with the new gold card?

Some of our readers have, and they are warning others that the calls likely are a scam.

"The rollout of new Medicare cards ended in 2019," but scams about Medicare cards continue, the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) wrote in January. "You will not be getting an updated Medicare card this Our readers and the SMP cautioned that Medicare will never call you uninvited to request personal or private information for you to get a new Medicare card. Hang up if you receive one of those calls.

Medicare won't charge you for a new card. If a caller claims you need to pay a fee to get a new or upgraded Medicare card, it's a scam.

Also, Medicare doesn't need to "verify" your information and never threatens to cancel benefits.

year, but scammers may try to convince you otherwise."

To help cut down on the number of scam calls, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) suggests you block unwanted calls and text messages.

Don't give your personal or financial information in response to a request that you didn't expect. Honest organizations won't call, email, or text to ask for your personal information, like your Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers.

If you get an email or text message from a company you do business with and you think it's real, it's still best not to click on any links. Instead, contact them using a website you know is trustworthy. Or look up their phone number. Don't call the number they gave you or the number showing on your caller ID.

Resist the pressure to act immediately. Honest businesses will give you time to make a decision. Anyone who pressures you to pay or give them your personal information is a scammer.

Know how scammers tell you to pay. Never pay someone who insists you pay with cryptocurrency, a wire transfer service like Western Union or MoneyGram, a payment app, or a gift card. And never deposit a check and send money back to someone.

Stop and talk to someone you trust. Before you do anything else, tell someone — a friend, a family member, a neighbor — what happened. Talking about it could help you realize it's a scam.

If you were scammed or think you saw a scam, tell the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov.

Civil Rights Enforcement Online Portal Launched

The United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Virginia has a new tool to help protect the civil rights of those living in the western portion of the Commonwealth.

Earlier this year, United States Attorney Christopher R. Kavanaugh launched a Civil Rights Enforcement landing page as part of the Western District's main website. The civil rights webpage is intended to serve as a one-stop shop where people may learn about their federal civil rights and report if they believe their rights have been violated.

"So often, when someone feels they have been the victim of discrimination or their

civil rights have otherwise been violated, they are unsure of what to do. Who do they turn to? Do they contact the local police? The FBI? And if so, what number do they call?" United States Attorney Kavanaugh said. "Our hope is that this online portal will educate the public about their individual civil rights, how to safeguard them, and who to contact if they believe their rights have been violated in the 52 counties and 17 cities that comprise the Western District of Virginia."

The U.S. Attorney's Office enforces federal civil rights through civil litigation and criminal prosecution and, in all cases, represents the inter-

ests of the United States.

U.S. Attorney Kavanaugh has appointed two, full-time Assistant United States Attorneys to his civil rights team, and he is hiring a third to lead the district's civil enforcement unit through civil litigation. These individuals vigorously enforce federal civil rights laws throughout the Western District of Virginia. These laws prohibit discrimination, protect the constitutional rights of residents, and affirm equal opportunity for all.

The public can reach the USAO Civil Rights Team and report potential violations of civil rights at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdva/civil-rights-enforcement>.

Coleman promoted to second in command

Patrick County Sheriff's Capt. Rob Coleman was promoted to Chief Deputy on August 1, according to Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith. With the pro-

motion, Coleman is considered second in command, and now holds the rank of Major.

Coleman started his law enforcement career in 1999 as a police officer with the Martinsville Police Department (MPD). Coleman was a member of the MPD special weapons and tactics team and became a certified firearms instructor. In 2001, he successfully completed the prestigious Whitefeather Law Enforcement Marksman training program founded by legendary Marine Corps sniper Carlos Hathcock. He won numerous MADD (Mothers against Drink Driving) awards and was continuously among driving under the influence (DUI) and criminal arrest leaders in the department.

When Smith took office in 2008, Coleman came to the Patrick County Sheriff's Office. He has supervised the patrol division and has served as commander of the sheriff's office tactical response team.

"Rob has been with me his entire career, I am grateful that he made the decision to come with me 16 years ago, he is a born leader," Smith said.

He added that Coleman is respected by his peers because, like his predecessor retired Major Garry Brown, "he works."

Coleman graduated from Bassett High School in 1994 and from Radford University in 1998.

Coleman and his wife, Lora, have one son, Clay.



Pets of the Week



This sad fella has been waiting so long. We just can't understand why he is getting passed over. He is such a handsome guy. When found, he was tied to a porch with no shade or water. He deserves a good life.

This pretty tri color lady is just over a year old. She is sweet and a favorite at the shelter.

The shelter is over flowing again so check out our face book page to see all the dogs and cats available for adoption.

Visit or call the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter (PCPAS) at (276) 694-6259. You can also view available pets on the shelter's Facebook page. Adoption fees are \$10 and include spay/neuter and a rabies vaccination.

email us
DHALL@THEENTERPRISE.NET

Why Are Some Patrick County United Methodist Churches Leaving the United Methodist Church?

By Rev. Tammy Franklin
Pastor of Creasey's Chapel

You may have noticed the changing of some church signs in Patrick County over the last few months. You may be wondering why. I offer this brief explanation as a pastor who served three churches, now disaffiliated from the United Methodist Church (UMC), on why these departures have taken place. Disaffiliation (to end an official connection) from the UMC means a congregation has voted and approved to leave the denomination completely, the denomination will no longer hold any authority over the church family, its property, or finances. Because the UM churches in Patrick County are in Virginia, they deal with the VA Conference (one of many conferences with in the Global United Methodist Church).

To disaffiliate the Patrick County UM congregations were required to pay a certain amount of money and complete a complicated list of other requirements. Disaffiliation is finalized when the VA UMC has voted approval for a congregation to leave, paid the full amount of money set by the VA UMC, and completed all required paperwork. Only then is the trust clause that exists within the deeds of the church property, giving ownership to the UMC Conference in which the church resides, released and the individual church becomes sole owner of the property.

Why leave? The debate over the commissioning, ordaining, and licensing of clergy who are actively engaged in a same gender romantic relationship has been debated in the United Methodist denomination since 1972, added to this is the dispute of clergy performing same gender weddings when Virginia legalized same-sex marriages.

Traditional UM churches follow the Holy Bible. Scripture in no way affirms same sex marriages or homosexuality nor does the United Methodist's Book of Discipline (UMBOD), the book containing the rules that govern how the United Methodist Church conducts itself, allow its clergy to perform same gender weddings. Nor are practicing homosexual individuals to be approved, commissioned, licensed, or ordained as clergy.

Again, traditional congregations adhere to scripture as written and to the Book of Discipline. There are clergy within the UMC who are married to a same sex partner and have, recently, been appointed as Bishop, the leaders of the United Methodist Church. Clergy have performed same gender weddings despite the rules prohibiting such weddings, without disciplinary consequences.

To be clear, the congregations I served all welcomed and continue to welcome everyone to their Worship Services because they understand and believe the Church belongs to Jesus Christ who, Scripture tells us, died for all people without exception, but God's Holy Scripture governs their beliefs, traditions, and prac-

tics and by-laws. When the leadership of the United Methodist Church (The Bishops) began to blatantly ignore disobedience from its clergy concerning scriptural authority and its own governing rules as laid out in the United Methodist Book of Discipline while expecting complete compliance from individual churches, members, and pastors in all other matters the hypocrisy was the proverbial "straw that broke the camel's back". The Book of Discipline did not change its stance on matters concerning homosexuality, nor has Scripture changed its doctrine. In 2019 the delegates of the General Conference, the only body that holds the authority to make changes to the UMBOD, added a new rule allowing congregations to leave the UMC with their property and finances, as a matter of conscience, but it comes with a large price tag for any church choosing to do so.

There has been an irreconcilable divide between the two groups the VA Conference has labeled Traditionalists and Progressives. This unceasing argument has plagued the denomination for fifty years, hindering the good missional work everyone could be spending their time and effort on instead arguing who is right and who is wrong. The UMC has approved this "out" for churches who choose to remove themselves from this ongoing contention.

Please understand not every church choosing to remain United Methodist is progressive, some cannot afford the heavy cost of disaffiliation, others are waiting to see what happens at the next General Conference in 2024.

In this country of guaranteed religious freedom, both parties have every right to make a choice; as Christians, both groups should be respectful of the right to choose to be either Traditional or Progressive. Disrespect, hatred, and violence have no place in either traditional or progressive churches. Out of the ten United Methodist Churches in Patrick County nine chose to leave the UMC, to stand firm in their belief in and obedience of Scripture as the one, true, infallible source for their faith and practice. Out of these nine not one has attacked, in any way, the one church that chose to remain United Methodist. The one remaining United Methodist Church has not attacked, in any way, the nine disaffiliated churches.

This is what loving sisters and brothers in Christ, despite their differences, looks like in action, and it is what sets Christians apart from the world.

I hope and pray this brief explanation first, brings some clarity for those who may be wondering why, second, helps debunk misinformation, and third, reminds all Christians we are free to choose what we believe, and free to live out our beliefs whether or not we agree with another individual or another church's interpretation of or not, as long as we do no harm to others.

News from the 9th

By Morgan Griffith
Here They Go Again

The size and spending of the federal government have exploded. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, federal spending is estimated to increase 43% between 2019 and 2024.

The nonprofit OpenTheBooks.com recently released a report about the growth of one of our federal agencies, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), showing that the agency's budget has increased by more than \$100 billion over the past two years under Biden. Additionally, the President is seeking to increase EPA's full-time staff by thousands in fiscal year 2024.

One would hope that with more money and employees, our federal government would be working to make average Americans' lives easier. But apparently that's not the case.

A series of new rules and regulations from the Biden Administration has made clear that the federal government is going to further overregulate our lives, this time with our appliances.

The U.S Department of Energy (DOE) proposed a rule which would set maximum annual energy consumption standards for electric and gas stoves. According to DOE, this change would cause half of gas stove models sold in the United States to be non-compliant.

House Republicans took action to prevent this government overreach by passing the Save Our Gas Stoves Act in June, legislation to prohibit DOE from implementing the proposed rule. The legislation is pending in the Senate.

Well, it hasn't stopped at gas stoves. In February, DOE proposed new energy standards for washing machines and refrigerators. DOE says Americans who update both appliances would save \$425 on their utility bill over the average lifetime of the appliances, which works out to about \$16 per appliance per year.

Manufactures of appliances warn the new standards will lead to reduced performance and much higher prices, affecting lower- and middle-income families who can't afford the skyrocketing prices of new refrigerators and washing machines.

Years back a woman from Bluefield told me she was filling her washing machine with a hose because Obama-era water restrictions for washing machines wouldn't allow for enough water to properly clean her clothes.

Now the new Biden DOE regulations will require washing machines to use almost 25 percent less water – the problem is only getting worse!

Also, DOE released a rule to cut water use by more than one-third for dishwashers.

According to the Institute for Energy Research, these changes to dishwashers would result in higher upfront prices for the appliance, while only saving Americans \$17 annually on water and energy

costs (based on a standard-size dishwasher). Further, DOE released a draft rule to force most electric water heaters in the future to deploy heat pump technology and gas-fired water heaters to use condensing technology. According to Fox News Digital, experts have criticized the draft rule, as the new standards would ban cheaper alternatives while minimally impacting utility bills.

Around the same time, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission proposed a policy which would ban the sale of almost all portable gas-powered electric generators.

It seems that no appliance is safe from the Biden Administration.

In fact, a new light bulb ban has just gone into effect. Under DOE regulations, manufacturers and retailers are no longer allowed to sell most incandescent light bulbs, which make up about 30% of light bulbs sold in the United States, in an effort to force Americans to use light-emitting diode, or LED, light bulbs.

According to the Residential Energy Consumption Survey, this new regulation will particularly impact lower-income Americans as they prefer to use incandescent over LED.

Forcing Americans to use LED light bulbs may have negative health effects. According to reports from a University of Exeter study, LED emits more blue light, which suppresses melatonin. This can affect your sleep cycle and over time, lead to problems like hypertension, diabetes, or even a heart attack.

This overregulation by the federal government hurts the working poor and middle class the most. When a family has to replace their appliances, some Americans won't be able to afford to do so.

That is a heap of pain for little gain! It's not like the current regulations date back to the 1950s! Most of these regulations are about a decade old.

These new overreaching regulations on appliances by the federal government are making Americans' lives more difficult and more costly. The Biden Administration is focused on small gains without a care for the financial burden being placed on lower- and middle-income families.

The increased costs will not affect wealthy folks. The Biden Administration has lost touch with average Americans.

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.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Patrick Pioneers

William James Law & Martin Slaughter By Beverly Belcher Woody

The late Lawrence R. Burton, who practiced law his entire career in Stuart, loved to share stories of the folks from Patrick County. One of his most memorable stories was about William James Law, more commonly known as "Uncle Billy," who was a frugal, thrifty man and viewed as the "unofficial" banker of the Elamsville/Fairystone community.

It was known that "Uncle Billy" kept a stash of gold coins somewhere in his log cabin, but the location was not disclosed after his death in 1907. Probably the most successful loan that "Uncle Billy" ever made was to his first wife's nephew around 1900. The young man rode from Henry County on a mule to ask Uncle Billy for a loan to start a small furniture business. Uncle Billy listened to his business plan and agreed to loan him the gold coins, if the young man's father would endorse the note. The young man returned to Henry County to get his father's signature.

Once the young man left, Uncle Billy retrieved the gold coins that would cover the loan. Uncle Billy's cabin was built out of logs that were approximately one foot thick. To support the shelves on the walls, holes were bored in the logs and pegs were placed in the holes. Uncle Billy had bored the holes extra deep and stored the gold coins behind the pegs. A couple of days later, the young man returned on his mule with the endorsement from his father and Uncle Billy gave him the gold coins. The endorsement signature to guarantee the loan was John Henry Bassett, the father of John D. Bassett!

When I heard this story, being a genealogist first and foremost, my immediate thought was "first wife's nephew?" Who was William James Law's first wife and who was his wife at the time that John D. Bassett had come to ask for the loan? During my research, I discovered that William James Law AKA "Uncle Billy" first mar-



Bassett Furniture Employees 1902 CC Bassett and daughter center JD Bassett to his right. (Courtesy Bassett Historical Center.)

ried Priscilla Ruth Spencer, who was the sister to John D. Bassett's mother, Nancy Jane Spencer. Priscilla and Nancy were the daughters of Lewis Spencer and Priscilla Adams. "Uncle Billy" and Priscilla had seven children, Drucilla Jane Law Pilson, Lewis Green "Tuck", Joshua Thomas, Nancy Elizabeth Law Foley, Martha Adeline Law Pendleton Foley, Ardena Rosabelle Law Morrison, and Lucy Law Turner. Priscilla died in childbirth on the 22nd of April 1872; she was 40 years old.

On May 26th, 1874, Uncle Billy married Miss Judith Delilah Slaughter, the daughter of Reverend Martin Slaughter and Mary Conner Slaughter. Mary is my third great aunt and family lore

passed down through the generations is that Martin and Mary gave each of their six daughters \$800 in gold coins and a fine horse for their dowry. It was thought Martin and Mary's coins were buried near their spring, which was located on a ridge behind where Roberts' Lighthouse Grill is now located.

Lawrence Burton, knowing the Bassett story about Uncle Billy having a cache of gold coins and his second wife coming with a dowry of \$800 in gold coins, seems to just tie things together. I wonder if there are any more of those gold coins out there.

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

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 - I'm a Veteran. How Do I Get My Extra Social Security?

Dear Rusty: As a military veteran, I was told that the final amount of my Social Security should be a little higher as a reward for military service. If so, I have two questions: 1. How much is the boost? 2. How can I know that amount has been applied? Signed: Unsure

Dear Unsure: We receive questions about this fairly often from our military veterans. I want to first thank you for your service to our country and then assure you that, as a military veteran myself, I have thoroughly investigated this subject - the so-called "Special Extra Credit for Military Service," which is widely misunderstood. Although someone suggested that your Social Security benefit "is supposed to be a little higher" because you are a military veteran, allow me to share how this somewhat obscure rule actually works.

Any extra money for military veterans does not come in the form of a special "boost" to their Social Security benefit because of their military service; instead, certain older veterans receive extra credit to their earnings for the years they served. Those extra earnings are applied only to those who served in specific years, as additional dollars added to their actual earnings record for their service-years. The amount added to the veteran's true service-year earnings varies a bit depending on which years you served. For example, if you served between 1957 - 1977, your actual earnings for each service-year would be increased by \$300 for each full quarter you had active duty pay to a maximum of \$1200 additional earnings per service-year. The credit is computed a bit differently for those who served between 1978 - 2001, but the maximum annual earnings credit for those service years is the same - \$1,200. And, for clarity, those who served before 1957 get extra earnings credit under an entirely different formula, and those who served after 2001 receive no extra credits for their military service years.

So how might this affect your Social Security benefit? Well, when your benefit is claimed, Social Security reviews your lifetime earnings record, inflates each actual annual amount to equal today's dollar equivalent, and selects the highest earning

35 years from your lifetime record to calculate your "Primary Insurance Amount" or "PIA" (your PIA is the amount you are entitled to at full retirement age). If your military service-years are among the 35 years used to compute your PIA when you claim, then the "Special Extra Credit for Military Service" will result in a somewhat higher PIA (a slightly higher monthly SS benefit). If the highest earning 35 years in your lifetime record do not include your military-service-years, then those extra credits added to your earnings for your military-service-years will have no effect on your Social Security benefit (because using those service-years would result in a lower benefit). How Social Security applies those special extra credits to your service-year earnings also varies depending on when you served. Those who served before 1968 needed to show their DD-214 to get the extra credits, but those who served in between 1968 - 2001 were automatically given the extra credits based on their military service records.

So, if your military service was between 1968 and 2001, your earnings during the years you served were automatically increased by SS to reflect your "special extra" earnings and - if those years are among the highest of the 35 years used to compute your SS benefit - you are now receiving the extra benefit amount you're entitled to from those credits. If you have at least 35 years over your lifetime where you earned more than your pay while serving in the military, your current benefit is more than it would be if your military service years were included. If you have questions about your earnings during your military service years, you may wish to obtain a copy of your lifetime earnings history from Social Security to review those amounts (easiest way to get your lifetime earnings history is via your personal "my Social Security" account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount).

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One Equals Two

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), only 23% of Americans get any regular light to moderate physical activity. In light of this information, is it any wonder that we are in the middle of an obesity epidemic?

Regular physical activity decreases our risk for many diseases including obesity, high blood pressure, coronary heart disease, stroke, diabetes, osteoporosis, many cancers, anxiety and depression.

An ongoing study, (which began in 1984,) has been monitoring the difference between two groups of people at Stanford University: the 'ever-runners' and the 'never-runners.'

The health of these two groups has been tracked for nearly three decades. Not surprisingly, the data has shown that exercise is critical to health. Over the years, compared with the never-exercisers, people who exercised regularly showed improved aerobic capacity, better heart health, increased bone mass, less inflammation, less physical disability, and even improved thinking, learning and memory. They also lived significantly LONGER. However, what most astounded the researchers, was the fact that the runners continued to have improved health and longevity even if they converted to less vigorous activities later in life. By the 19th year of the study, 15% of the runners had died, compared to 34% of the non-runners.

Many people claim that they do not have enough time in the day to exercise. But let me reveal a little secret: for every minute of exercise, you gain two minutes of longevity. So, you just do a little borrowing—you borrow from the future. Take time to care for your body now, and it will pay off double in the future.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average American spends two hours and forty-five minutes a day watching television. However, time spent participating in sports, exercise, or recreation was drastically less: the average being only 18 minutes a day. The numbers speak for themselves. We have enough time to take care of our bodies; we simply need to prioritize it.

There have been several studies that show physical activity can help prevent many types of cancer, particularly colon and breast cancer. Current cancer patients can also benefit from exercise. For example, the most physically active breast cancer patients reduced their risk of cancer related death and recurrence by up to 40%.

Increasing your physical activity after the age of 50 has tremendous benefits. Not only can it add 2-4 years to your life, but a recent study has shown that people who remain physically active remain disability-free for an additional 5.7 years. So, you will not only live longer, but the quality of your life will be better for a longer period of time.

Of all the health habit choices we can make, maintaining physical fitness is the most important. In fact, given the choice between quitting smoking or staying fit, staying fit is slightly healthier and would lead to a longer lifespan.

It has been shown that burning as little as 500 calories per week has positive health benefits— That is the equivalent of walking only 5 miles/week. However, this is a case of "If a little is good, more is better." We recommend walking 2-3 miles/day six days a week. That would burn an extra 1,800 calories/week; you would gain significant health benefits, as we have described, ...

(Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Randy Bivens, MD. Used by permission from www.lifeand-health.org. Courtesy of LifeSpring - Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA)

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Driver Jimmie Johnson, crew chief Chad Knaus voted into NASCAR Hall of Fame

By Reid Spencer
NASCAR Wire Service

It was a no-brainer.

How could you keep a seven-time NASCAR Cup Series champion with 83 career victories out of the NASCAR Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility?

Clearly, the Hall of Fame Voting Panel agreed with the absurdity of that prospect, electing Jimmie Johnson overwhelmingly to the Class of 2024.

Joining Johnson in next year's class is the crew chief who guided him to those seven championships and 81 of his 83 Cup wins.

Chad Knaus, widely considered an inseparable part of the Hendrick Motorsports pairing that won a record five straight Cup titles from 2006 through 2010, will be inducted into the NASCAR Hall in 2024 alongside his driver.

As announced by NASCAR president Steve Phelps at the NASCAR Hall of Fame on Wednesday, the Hendrick duo will be joined by Donnie Allison, who was chosen from five nominees as the 2024 inductee from the Pioneer Class.

In addition, Phelps announced that motorsports pioneer Janet Guthrie, who finished 15th in the 1976 World 600 at Charlotte Motor Speedway in her NASCAR debut, will receive the Landmark Award for Outstanding Contributions to NASCAR.

Johnson was named on 93 percent of the Modern Era ballots cast on Voting Day at the Charlotte Convention Center. After three starts in NASCAR's foremost division late in 2001, Johnson—with Knaus as his crew chief—made an immediate mark on the sport during his 2002 rookie season.

After earning the pole position for the season-opening Daytona 500, Johnson went on to win three times, claiming his first Cup victory at his home track in Fontana, Calif., before adding a pair of wins at Dover, which would become one of his most productive tracks.

For the next 15 years, the 47-year-old native of El Cajon, Calif., would win at least two races per season on the way to his 83 total—tied with NASCAR Hall of Famer Cale Yarborough for sixth-most all-time. Johnson's high-water mark came in 2007, when he won 10 times en route to his second straight championship.

To secure that title, Johnson needed a remarkable run of four straight victories in races six through nine of the Chase to overtake Hendrick teammate and fellow NASCAR Hall of Famer Jeff Gordon, after the two drivers battled head-to-head for most of the season.

Johnson won three more titles in the next three years, eclipsing Yarborough's record of three straight fashioned from 1976 through 1978.

Adding championships in 2013 and 2016, Johnson earned the nickname "Seven-Time" for



President of Wood Brothers Racing Eddie Wood speaks during the NASCAR Hall of Fame Voting Day at Charlotte Convention Center on August 02, 2023 in Charlotte, North Carolina. (Photo by Jared C. Tilton/Getty Images)

tying inaugural NASCAR Hall of Fame Class members Richard Petty and Dale Earnhardt for the Cup Series record.

Even though he was an obvious choice, the selection nevertheless seemed surreal to Johnson. "I know—and I feel like Chad feels much the same—we just wanted to go racing," Johnson said. "From a very young age, racing was in our life. Our parents raced, our families raced. We just wanted to be racers."

"And sure, I know I tried to dream big, but I couldn't have dreamt this big. And to have everything play out as it has—even looking back on those moments in time, with five in a row and seven championships in total, the super moments along the way—I still can't believe it's happened."

"I guess it's just... when you're a kid, dream big, and who knows, it might end up happening."

Knaus received 81 percent of Modern Era votes. His record is inexorably linked to Johnson's, with a couple of notable exceptions. In 2006, Johnson won the first of his two Daytona 500s and the UAW-Daimler Chrysler 400 at Las Vegas while Knaus was serving a four-race suspension for aerodynamic alterations to the rear window of the No. 48 Chevrolet made before qualifying at Daytona.

Substituting for Knaus, Darian Grubb is the crew chief of record for those two victories.

In 2020, Knaus added a win to his record that's not part of Johnson's resume. Knaus guided William Byron to his first Cup victory in the August race at Daytona before turning the crew chief reins over to Rudy Fugle the following season, as Knaus assumed the role of vice president of competition at Hendrick.

Up until the moment his name was called, Knaus wasn't convinced he would be selected in his first year of eligibility.

"As I was watching the video that played, once Jimmie was nominated, and I saw the way we grew up together," Knaus said, "and as I sat back and was watching him, and I was thinking, 'My gosh, how much I've learned throughout my career just because of Jimmie,' and I was really proud of that."

"I was probably more proud of the fact that he's in there than actually I am. For me personally, it's a huge, huge day. Very, very proud. Very proud of everybody that's helped me, and it's an honor to be here with Jimmie."

"I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for Jimmie Johnson, in a lot of different ways."

Allison, one of the founding members of the famed "Alabama Gang," was named on 53 percent of the Pioneer ballots, with car builder Banjo Matthews second in the voting. Allison follows brother Bobby Allison, a member of the inaugural class, into the Hall.

Ironically, in each of Donnie Allison's first three NASCAR Cup Series victories, Bobby followed Donnie, as the brothers ran 1-2 at Rockingham in 1968, Charlotte in 1969 and Bristol in 1970.

All told, Donnie Allison won 10 times at NASCAR's highest level, but he is perhaps more famous for a race he didn't win. Allison was leading the 1979 Daytona 500 when he and Cale Yarborough banged fenders repeatedly on the final lap, ultimately eliminating both cars.

The drivers exited their crippled machines and confronted each other, with Bobby Allison soon joining the fray. That race, the first NASCAR event with live flag-to-flag coverage on national television, and the fight that followed put the sport on the map.

"It's really nice," Allison said during an interview on SiriusXM NASCAR Radio. "It's the culmination of a lot of hard work, a lot of patience."

"It's always been a joy to be a part of racing like I've been. To have a career like I had and to go on to help young guys like Joey Logano, Trevor Bayne, different guys like that, and my grandson Justin, it's just an honor to be inducted into this Hall of Fame."

Guthrie raced sports cars and IndyCars before making her foray into NASCAR racing. In 33 NASCAR Cup Series starts, she posted five top 10s, with a best finish of sixth at Bristol in 1977.

Visitor Spending in Virginia Returns to 2019 Levels

Virginia's tourism industry generated \$30.3 billion in visitor spending in 2022, an increase of 20.3% from 2021, exceeding 2019 levels by 4.4%, Gov. Glenn Youngkin and the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) announced last week.

The tourism industry in Virginia directly supported 210,721 jobs in 2022, an increase of more than 25,000 jobs relative to 2021, but still down about 30,000 jobs relative to 2019.

Travelers spent \$83 million per day in Virginia, up from \$69 million in 2021. Virginia visitors directly drove nearly \$2.2 billion in state and local tax revenues, an increase of 19.1% from \$1.8 billion in 2021. Overnight visitation to Virginia increased by 10% to 42.2 million visitors, up from 38.3 million in 2020.

"Travel and tourism play an essential role in Virginia's economy," said Youngkin. "Reviving our tourism industry was a crucial goal to our economic recovery, and our focused efforts on employment and business growth has proven to be successful for the Commonwealth."

The Commonwealth has recovered significantly from the pandemic, but the recovery has been uneven across geography and travel sectors. While the initial onset of the pandemic had a devastating impact on the travel industry in 2020, domestic leisure travel saw a robust return in 2021 as travelers sought outdoor experiences and drivable destinations. Virginia is uniquely positioned geographically and is within a day's drive from nearly half of the U.S.

population. As road trips boomed, many Virginia regions were able to reap the benefits of increased travel.

The leading tourism sectors in Virginia are recreation and food & beverage, which have exceeded 2019 levels by 10%. Transportation, specifically air travel, has had a slower rebound but grew the fastest in 2022, helping the Commonwealth's regions that are more dependent on air travel.

With the additional marketing dollars that came through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, Virginia and its localities continued to see growth in visitor spending. Virginia Tourism, specifically, utilized recovery grant funds to advertise in new markets and reached nearly 15 million more households in 2022 relative to 2021.

"By reaching more travelers in new markets, Virginia continues to raise awareness and consideration as a premier travel destination," said Rita McClenny, President and CEO of Virginia Tourism Corporation. "This awareness results in increased bookings and arrivals, which, in turn, translates to increased visitor spending across the state."

The Virginia Tourism Corporation receives its annual economic impact data from Tourism Economics, in partnership with the U.S. Travel Association. The information is based on domestic visitor spending (travelers from within the United States) from per-person trips taken 50 miles or more away from home. Detailed economic impact data is available at vatc.org/research/economicimpact.

Candid scenes from the Tourism Summit



A candid shot from an Evening Social before the Tourism Summit, at Seven Sisters Brewery on Aug 1.



Steve Helms of Primland Auberge, and Sarah Wray of Reynolds Homestead, in conversation at the Tourism Summit in Wytheville. (Photos by Mary Dellenback Hill)

AARP

(cont. from page 1)

something I'm going to do. It's either greed or good."

The survey, conducted in June by the Wason Center for Civic Leadership at Christopher Newport University, revealed that two-thirds of Virginia voters ages 18 and older say they regularly take prescriptions. Overall, more than one-third of Virginia registered voters report having opted not to fill a prescription their doctor had given them, and two-thirds say they are very or somewhat concerned about being able to afford the cost of medications they or a family member may need.

The needs of Virginia and creation of the board "should be Job one and that all other matters come second," Stanley said. "We cannot stand and do nothing. Today is the first day we must affirm that the people of the commonwealth matter. They are the most important resources," said Stanley.

"I will support and carry it with the same passion that I carry bills whether it be for beagles or for criminal justice," he added.

Stanley was joined at the virtual news conference hosted by AARP Virginia by Del. Karrie Delaney, D-Centreville, who will sponsor the proposal in the House of Delegates.

The survey "results validate what I hear from my constituents when I'm out at their doors — that necessary, life-saving medication is too often out of reach, and they support any and all efforts to reduce healthcare expenses, including a Prescription Drug Affordability Board," she said.

"There are too many people who are making a choice between put-

ting food on the table, keeping a roof over their head, and lifesaving and very essential to their quality of life medication," Delaney said. "We just don't have room for those kinds of decisions in Virginia."

Her daughter contends with Type 1 diabetes, "and I understand," Delaney said. "The cost of managing" the illness and the cost of medicine needed "to just to stay alive is astronomical. The General Assembly must come together in 2024 to pass this legislation and save millions of dollars for hardworking Virginians."

"I've had patients call me in a panic because the medication I prescribed that they need is too expensive," said Dr. Rommaan Ahmad, Virginia state lead for the Committee to Protect Health Care. "I can tell you, as a physician, that when a particular medication doubles or triples in price, it is not twice or three times more effective."

Ahmad, a Sports Medicine and Pain Management physician in Alexandria, said "We see every day how people struggle. I've been doing this almost 15 years now, and a lot of new" medicine and treatments "have come up in the last 15 years, but we can't always keep up with new medicines because of the costs."

Ahmad said she and other doctors in the practice are "giving the same medicines as" were prescribed in the 1970s. "We are forced to write prescriptions for generic medicines that we don't think will really help" while going through the process of preapproval from insurance carriers, she said.

Three-quarters of Virginia voters aged 18 and older support the creation of a Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB). The board would evaluate drug costs and set limits on how much Virginia payers, from state agencies to health plans to individuals paying out of pocket, will pay for prescription medications.

Support for a PDAB is strong across party lines, with 85% of Democrats, 71% of Republicans, and 70% of Independents agreeing with the policy.

A firm majority of voters — 60% — said support for a PDAB would motivate them to vote for a candidate for the Virginia General Assembly.

"In an age in which voters don't always agree on much, they agree on this: The skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs is a critically important issue, and a Prescription Drug Affordability Board is a good solution," said Jim Dau, AARP Virginia State Director. "Every candidate running for the General Assembly this fall should know that supporting a drug affordability board is a common sense, bipartisan way to win over voters."

Norfolk resident Jillian Goodwin, 31, takes 20 prescription drugs to treat cystic fibrosis. She said that she is lucky to have health insurance to help defray the costs of her medication.

"Without insurance, I truly wouldn't be here today," she said, noting that without insurance coverage and prescription drug discount programs, her copays would be \$1,600 per month, which is more than her mortgage payment. She said one of her new medications retails for \$360,000 per year.

Support is high among Virginia voters for three other legislative proposals about which they were asked. Nearly nine in ten voters voice support for having the Commonwealth join buying pools with other states to be able to offer discounted prescription drugs. Three-quarters of voters say they support establishing a maximum amount to be paid for certain drugs and importing drugs from countries with equivalent safety and quality standards.

AARP Virginia supported PDAB legislation during the 2023 General Assembly. The measure passed the State Senate with bipartisan support but died in committee in the House of Delegates.

"We are at a crossroads here where it's either greed or good," Stanley said, adding that he, Delaney, and like-minded counterparts "will be encouraging the legislators this year to put good over greed."

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County

(cont. from page 1)

place honors in that same sector for the "Best Magazine Guide." This was in recognition of the Patrick County Magazine released in the Fall of 2022.

Under the "Excellence in Tourism Leadership" category, Patrick County Tourism's Grace Cooper was honored as the region's "Rising Star."

Primitive Coffee in Meadows of Dan shared the "Outstanding New Tourism Business" award with Marion Outdoors. Primitive Coffee was nominated for the

award by the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce.

"James and his office, along with the Tourism Advisory Board, do a tremendous job in helping the rest of the world realize what we have in Patrick County," said interim County Administrator Tim Hall. "Their work reflects what we are about, and these awards are richly deserved."

Southwest Virginia tourism professionals submitted more than 90 nominations. Winners were chosen by a panel of tourism industry professionals from across

the United States.

"I am pleased to see that the work of our design partners, David Stanley of Silver Lining Design and Rebecca Adcock of the Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with our staff, has been recognized through these awards. In our Office, we recognize the significant impact of tourism on our state, region, and county. It is a great honor to be acknowledged by our peers for the efforts of Grace, our staff, partners, and myself in showcasing the beauty of Patrick County," Houchins said.



Rebecca Adcock, executive director of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce, is pictured with the Outstanding New Tourism Businesses of the Year, Primitive Coffee - Antique Market & Bakery. The business was nominated by the chamber.



Grace Cooper, of the Patrick County Tourism Office, earned the Rising Star award.



The county received a total of four awards last week at the Friends of Southwest Virginia's fourth annual Celebrate Tourism Summit.

Book Tour

(cont. from page 1)

novels have been chosen as a New York Times Notable Book, a New York Times Editors' Choice, a Washington Post Book World Best Book of the Year, a Bookmarks Magazine Best Book of the Year, a Boston Globe Best Book of the Year, a Book-of-the-Month Club selection, a finalist for

the Stephen Crane First Fiction Award, and the winner of the Library of Virginia's People's Choice Award in 2009, 2016 and 2020.

Clark received the Patrick County Outstanding Community Service Award in 2016 and the Virginia State Bar's Harry L. Carrico Professionalism Award in 2018. His wife, Deana, is a photographer, and they live on a farm with dogs, cats, chickens, guinea fowl and three donkeys.

Early praise from Adriana Trigiani, author of Big Stone Gap, is that "The Plinko Bounce" "is jam-packed with crime, murder, old wounds, new thrills, disillusionment and the mayhem that ensues when dumb mistakes are made by well-meaning people. What a gift to readers on Judge Clark's 23rd anniversary in literary show business."

Beth Macy, author of Dopesick, said "Martin Clark injects life into a

topsy-turvy murder case in rural Virginia as only he can in this propulsive tour de force, which had me riveted from beginning to end."

"What I love about the novels of Martin Clark is how smart they are — about the law, of course: 'The Plinko Bounce' is a legal thriller, after all. But he's just as smart about people, their attachments and losses, and what drives us to assume our roles in the murky moral mess that's life," said Daniel Wallace, author of Big Fish and This Isn't Going to End Well.

"Martin Clark is back stronger than ever. With all the legal tomfoolery of Better Call Saul and the dutiful heart of Longmire, 'The Plinko Bounce' underscores why I've been an ardent Clark fan since the beginning," said Matthew Quick, New York Times bestselling author of "The Silver Linings Playbook" and "We Are the Light."

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Initial unemployment insurance claims drop

The number of initial claims edged lower in the latest filing week to 2,269, but remained at the typical pre-Pandemic volumes experienced in 2019, according to data from the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC).

For the filing week ending July 29, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 2,269, which was a decrease of 24 claimants from the previous week. Continued weeks claimed totaled 13,727, which was 13 claims higher than the previous week and an increase of 15.9% from the 11,842 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 (1,944), administrative and support and waste management (1,874), health care and social assistance (1,328), manufacturing (1,137), and accommodation and food services (1,021). 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 29, the advance U.S. figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 227,000, an increase of 6,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 221,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs[1], unadjusted, totaled 205,012 in the week ending July 29, a decrease of 8,485 (or -4.0 percent) from the previous week. There were 196,116 initial claims in the comparable week in 2022. Looking at preliminary data, most U.S. states reported decreases on a seasonally unadjusted basis. Ohio's preliminary weekly change (-2,958) was the largest decrease. California's preliminary weekly change (-2,386) was the second largest decrease. Georgia's preliminary weekly change (-1,593) was the third largest decrease. Texas's preliminary weekly change (-1,162) was the fourth largest decrease. Virginia's preliminary weekly change (+79) was the twelfth largest increase.

Albert Lane Turner

Albert Lane Turner, age 75, of Woolwine, VA passed away in his home, with his family, on Friday, August 4, 2023. He was born in Patrick County on May 17, 1948 to Chester and Mildred Thomas Turner. Albert Lane had a passion for farming and antique Ford vehicles. He held many jobs throughout his life. He retired from Liberty Fabrics / Hanes Brands with service in multiple departments throughout his 20 years. Albert Lane enjoyed his employment at G. J. Ingram and Son Store and working for Glenn Roycroft, White Oak Contracting, LLC. His final passion was driving the logging truck for his grandson, Turner Logging. He was a member of the VFW and American Legion. He served in Vietnam and felt it a privilege to serve as a member of the Patrick County Veteran's Memorial Honor Guard for 41 years. He will be remembered by family and friends for his work ethic and willingness to help anyone in any situation.

Albert Lane is survived by the love of his life, Carol Turner and two children; Gene Turner (Cynthia) and Opal Rebecca Quesen-



berry (Lee). He adored his three grandchildren, Thomas Turner (Kelsey Fain), Kalayna Cassady (Lucus Sawyer), and Austin Beavers (Olivia Cassell) and his step grandchildren, William Black and Burke Black. The most enjoyment came from watching his two great grandchildren, Lexie Lane Turner and Lylah Kathleene Sawyer, and his step-great grandchildren, Waylon Strother, Karoline Sawyer, and Karter Sawyer. He is survived by two brothers and three sisters-in-law, Alfred Turner (Aylees), Mitcheal Turner (Shelley), and Joan Turner (Oscar's widow). He is also survived by his wife's loving family, Ruby Nester, Shirley Belcher (Tony), and Wayne Hodges (Jenna). He was proud of his many nieces and nephews and their families.

Albert Lane was pre-

ceded in death by his son, William "Willie" Lane Turner, parents, an infant brother, Stephen, and his best friend and brother, Oscar Turner.

During his last days, he had a great celebration of his life, by an abundance of visits from family and friends. Each visit meant the world to him. Special thanks to Carilion Hospice and all his caretakers.

A graveside service will be held at the Turner and Thomas Family Cemetery, Charity Lane, Woolwine on Monday, August 7, 2023 at 3:00 pm with David Gaylor officiating. Military rites will be provided by the Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard. The family will welcome friends at the graveside an hour prior to the service.

Donations may be made to Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard, c/o Richard Cox, 7888 Woolwine Hwy., Woolwine, VA 24185.

Moody Funeral Home in Stuart, Virginia has been entrusted with the arrangements and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Mr. William Charles "Chip" Booker, III

Mr. William Charles "Chip" Booker, III, age 54 of Stuart, passed away Thursday, August 3, 2023, at SOVAH Health of Martinsville. He was born in Rockingham County, NC on May 19, 1969, to the late William Charles Booker, Jr and Carol Tolbert Booker Sheppard. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a nephew, Eli Amos; and his stepfather, Joel A. Sheppard. Chip was a hard worker and a machinist by trade, last working for C.W. Cauley and Sons. He loved fishing, going to the beach, and guns.

Surviving is a daughter and son-in-



law, Ariel and James Craft of Covington, one son, Hunter Booker and girlfriend, Morgan Milligan of Stuart; his girlfriend, Tammy Harley of Eden, NC, one brother, Terry Booker of Jarrett; one sister and brother-in-law, Robin and

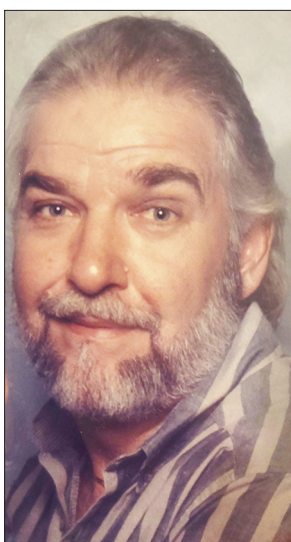
Terry Amos of Stuart; two nieces, Alexandra Booker, Kristy A. Hughes and husband, Brandon, great niece and nephew, Adalee and Emory Hughes; and a cousin, Angel Tolbert.

Funeral services will be held Monday, August 7, 2023, at 11:00 AM at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor Wayne Moore officiating. Burial will follow in the High Point Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Online condolences may be sent to www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Mr. Buford "Bruce" Pack

Mr. Buford "Bruce" Pack, age 73 of Stuart, passed away Saturday, July 29, 2023, at Atrium Health Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, NC. He was born in Surry County, NC on May 11, 1950, to the late Buster Pack and Eunice Thompson Pack. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Rachel Biggs; and a daughter-in-law, Lorie DeHart Pack.

Surviving is his wife of 54 years, Faye Biggs Pack of the home; one son, Mark Pack of Stuart; two grandchildren, Marcus Bowman, Vanessa Ashworth; 11 great grandchildren;



one sister, Connie Sue Pack of Stuart; one brother, Carl Pack of Rocky Mount; and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held Saturday,

August 5, 2023, at 2:00 PM at New Spoon Creek Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery with Elder Lowell Hopkins officiating. Flowers will be accepted, or donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 1079C Spruce St., Martinsville, VA 24112 or to the American Diabetes Association, 2451 Crystal Dr., Suite 900, Arlington, VA 22202. Online condolences may be sent to www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Gilbert, Trimpey awarded green vests

Patrick County Master Gardeners welcomed two new Master Gardeners, Revonda Gilbert and Marcia Trimpey. The two completed an extensive academic course as well as 50 hours of volunteer

service to the community. If interested in becoming a Master Gardener or attending a Master Gardener program, email mgpcva@gmail.com for more information.



Pictured left to right is Master Gardener training coordinator Ed Coleman, new Master Gardener Revonda Gilbert and Sherry Easterbrooks Master Gardener. (New Master Gardener Marcia Trimpey is not pictured.)

Margaret Mary Henningsen

Margaret Mary Henningsen of Meadows of Dan, VA passed away on July 29, 2023. Margaret was born on August 5, 1946, in Chicago, Illinois to Stanley and Helen Niemiec.

In addition to her parents, Margaret was preceded in death by her husband, James C. Henningsen; and a brother, Michael Niemiec. She is survived by her stepson, Michael Henningsen;

and stepdaughter, Anita Henningsen.

A memorial service for Margaret will be held at a later date. In lieu of memorial contributions, the family requests donations be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis TN 38105. The family also invites those wishing to express their condolences to visit www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

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PATRICK PULPITS

A Return to Church

E. Gabrielle Walker,
Homestead Community Church,
Stuart

Going home can be hard for some folks. Sometimes its personality conflicts. Sometimes its family dysfunction or abuse. Other times a person may feel like they can't go home because of things they've done or said. The same reasons are given for not going back to church. Some church families have caused each other very real and legitimate wounds, leading to a break. Others become so insular it is difficult for outsiders to find a place within the community, and there are those people who believe they have gone too far away from God to be accepted by either Him or the church ever again.

God speaks directly to these issues in His word several times over, but one passage particularly stands out to me. Isaiah 55:6-9 reads, "Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts." If I had to guess, I would say that everyone reading this has heard these verses many times, but it wasn't until recently that I really considered what these verses convey.

First, the Bible clearly states that the Lord is omnipresent, or always everywhere. (See for example 1 Kings 8:27, Psalm 139:7-10, Proverbs 15:3, Jeremiah 23:24, and Colossians 1:17.) So, when someone calls out to God, He can hear. The first part of verse 7, however, typically causes people to think about their behavior and actions. In

this verse, the "wicked" and "unrighteousness" are not people who simply participate in immoral or ungodly activities. These are the people who have not placed God at the center of their lives. In other words, God is not their treasure. The very next sentence calls on these people to "return." So, God is calling His children back to Him! But why?

God wants His children to return in order that He may shower them with "compassion" and overflowing "pardon." He does not want them back in order to rake them over the coals for how they turned away. He does not want them back so He can make them feel overwhelming shame or guilt. He wants them back so He can replace all that with His peace, joy, and love. How can He do this? He can do this because His ways are not our ways, and His thoughts are not our thoughts. When we are unwilling to forgive, God is faithful to forgive. When we are unwilling to make peace, God floods us with compassion. When we think we are unlovable, God bulldozes us over with His unending love. But He will wait for us to return.

Isaiah 30:15-18 gives us a look at this. God says that when His people return, they will have rest and strength, but the people chose to try fixing their problems their way. They moved further from God rather than returning to Him. Verse 18 states, "Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you, and therefore He exalts Himself to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for Him."

God is waiting for His children who have walked away to return. In doing so, He won't erase the pain of the past or the consequences of our actions, but He will love and forgive us while using that pain for our ultimate good. To God be the glory!

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Miriam (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Which book may be summarized as "Bad times do not change the nature of God"? Judges, Job, Jeremiah, Jonah
3. From 2 Chronicles 9:11, what are psalteries for singers? Robes, Stringed instruments, Lyrics, Abodes
4. In Revelation 6, what's the name of the fourth horseman?

Death, Power, Brimstone, Terror
5. From Ecclesiastes 3, there is a time to break down and a time to? Plow, Climb, Rejoice, Build up
6. Which of these was Abraham's wife? Rebekah, Martha, Sarah, Michal
ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Job, 3) Stringed instruments, 4) Death, 5) Build up, 6) Sarah
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Super Crossword

UNTHEMED

- ACROSS**
- 1 Upside-down-sleeping mammal
 - 8 Economizes to a fault
 - 14 Untrustworthy sort
 - 20 One way to serve apple pie
 - 21 Very solitary sort
 - 22 Monkey (with)
 - 23 Frigid-weather readings
 - 26 Military missions, in brief
 - 27 Old Ford div.
 - 28 Tennis great Chris
 - 29 Classic Coca-Cola slogan
 - 39 "Son of," in Arabic names
 - 40 Thurman of "Kill Bill" films
 - 41 Volcanic flow
 - 42 Watershed draining dozens of U.S. states
 - 53 Busy crawler
 - 54 Make sport of
 - 55 Cocktail party spread
 - 56 School in England's East Midlands
 - 61 The Emerald Isle
 - 62 Play — in (contribute to)
 - 63 Heap
 - 64 Graduate to a fault
 - 66 Actor's Ward of "Sisters"
 - 67 Polite cut-in words
 - 68 Drains of color
 - 69 Heaps
 - 70 Tulsa-to-Topeka dir.
 - 71 Metropolitises, e.g.
 - 72 Climb
 - 73 "Son of," in Arabic names
 - 74 Flight guess, in brief
 - 75 "In time the reason shall be made clear"
 - 76 Furnish with new weapons
 - 77 Mean Roman emperor
 - 78 Kung — chicken
 - 79 "The Magic Flute" composer
 - 81 Stylish filmmaker
 - 82 Made giggle
 - 83 Active, as a law
 - 84 Out of sight
 - 85 San Fran football team
 - 86 Music scorer
 - 87 Explorer John or Sebastian
 - 88 Letter before beth
 - 89 Triple-time dance, in France
 - 90 Broody rock subgenre
 - 91 Bend at a curtain call
 - 92 Woodworking tool
 - 93 Swarms (with)
 - 94 Not at all tall
 - 95 Mustard alternative
 - 96 Choler
 - 97 "Delicious!"
 - 98 One of 11 in a Christmas song
 - 99 Carell of "The Office"
 - 100 Knighted Ringo
 - 101 Cappuccino alternative
 - 102 Ostrich relative
 - 103 Mo. in spring
 - 104 Final letter
 - 105 Hosp. triage sites
 - 106 Riddle-me- —
 - 107 KO counter
 - 108 Some sorority letters
 - 109 Grab — (eat quickly)
 - 110 Al who won four Indy 500s
 - 111 French buddy
 - 112 Driveway-topping goo
 - 113 Stinging hits
 - 114 Lays into
 - 115 Something to RSVP to online
 - 116 More stable
 - 117 Longtime Twins catcher Joe
 - 118 Navel type
 - 119 Swizzles
 - 120 Airline to Oslo
 - 121 Basketball — Thomas
 - 122 2014 Wimbledon winner
 - 123 Sickly Kvitova
 - 124 Compete (for)
 - 125 "Don't Cry for Me Argentina" musical
 - 126 Military mission, in brief
 - 127 Spinner of "Star Trek" films
 - 128 Neckline shape
 - 129 Dinosaur in Nintendo games
 - 130 Actress Kaitlin
 - 131 Singer with the 2007 hit "1234"
 - 132 Whac- — (reflex-testing game)
 - 133 Of kidneys
 - 134 Slyly spiteful
 - 135 Engraved stone pillar
 - 136 Divining card
 - 137 Old JFK jet
 - 138 "Die Lorelei" poet Heinrich
 - 139 Actress Massey
 - 140 Window segments
 - 141 Baseballer Martinez
 - 142 Stayed home for a meal
 - 143 Washer cycle
 - 144 Gave two pills to, say
 - 145 Cool, in jive talk
 - 146 That, in Peru
 - 147 Singer Carly — Jepsen
 - 148 A cow milker tugs on it
 - 149 H.S. juniors' exams
 - 150 Campaigning pro
 - 151 Net address
 - 152 Wash clothes
 - 153 Untrustworthy sort
 - 154 Have a spat
 - 155 Pine (for)
 - 156 "— Can Cook" (old culinary show)
 - 157 Reflex-testing game
 - 158 Food taste associated with MSG
 - 159 Must have stone pillar
 - 160 Actress Joanne
 - 161 Red lab dye
 - 162 Divided
 - 163 Drug dealer
 - 164 Overly fond sort
 - 165 Baby's cry
 - 166 Yes, to Gigi
 - 167 British "Inc."
 - 168 Govt. agent
 - 169 Of city govt.
 - 170 Enzyme suffix
 - 171 L-P center
 - 172 Frequently, to poets
 - 173 Suffix meaning "animals"

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LEGAL

Public Hearing

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 6 p.m. at the (Stuart Site) Patrick & Henry Community College in the Community Room. The purpose of this hearing is to adopt the Comprehensive Plan Conformance Review Application with Fairy Stone Solar, LLC. Anyone wishing to view the Comprehensive Plan Conformance Review Application may do so at the Tax Mapping office, Suite 215 located in the Patrick County Veterans Memorial Building. Authorized by: Patrick County Planning Commission

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DIVORCE-Uncontested, \$475+\$86 court cost. **WILLS**-\$295.00. No court appearance.

Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com

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LEGAL

RFP 2023 MNT 007 - Patrick County High School - Athletic Fields Re-Lighting The Patrick County School Board is accepting competitive sealed proposals from licensed contractors to furnish all material, labor, equipment, fees and perform all work necessary to replace lighting for athletic fields at Patrick County High School, 215 Cougar Lane, Stuart, Virginia 24171. Drawings and specifications are available as a PDF file from the office of Conrad Knight Architecture, PLLC, 212 Starling Avenue, Suite 30, Martinsville, Virginia 24112, phone 276-638-8794, email 88knight@comcast.net. Proposals will be received and opened in the office of the Patrick County School Board located at 104 Rucker Street, Stuart, Virginia 24171 on Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

LEGAL

BALLOON TEST NOTIFICATION SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2023: 8:00 AM UNTIL 12 PM LOCATION: PATRICK COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL; 215 COUGAR LANE, STUART, VA 29171 CONDUCTED BY MILESTONE TOWERS IN REGARD TO MILESTONE TOWERS' NEW TOWER APPLICATION TO CONSTRUCT A 197-FOOT MONOPOLE AND WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITY ON THE PATRICK COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL PROPERTY (In the event of inclement weather, poor visibility, wind in excess of 15 mph or weather conditions otherwise preventing the balloon test, the test will be held Sunday, August 20, 2023 if weather permits, same location and hours) CONTACT: Jonathan L. Yates TELEPHONE: 843-414-9754

LEGAL

RFP 2023 MNT 008 - Patrick Springs Elementary School - Sidewalk Canopy The Patrick County School Board is accepting competitive sealed proposals from licensed contractors to furnish all material, labor, equipment, fees and perform all work necessary to construct a sidewalk canopy at Patrick Springs Elementary School, 75 Elementary Lane, Patrick Springs, VA 24133. Drawings and specifications are available as a PDF file from the office of Conrad Knight Architecture, PLLC, 212 Starling Avenue, Suite 30, Martinsville, Virginia 24112, phone 276-638-8794, email 88knight@comcast.net. Proposals will be received and opened in the office of the Patrick County School Board located at 104 Rucker Street, Stuart, Virginia 24171 on Thursday, August 24, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

LEGAL

RFP 2023 MNT 009 - Blue Ridge Elementary School - Floor Tile The Patrick County School Board is seeking competitive sealed proposals from licensed contractors to provide all labor, material, equipment, and perform all work necessary to remove and replace floor tile at Blue Ridge Elementary School, 5135 Ararat Hwy., Ararat, VA 24053. Drawings and specifications are available from the office of Chad Haynes, Facilities Supervisor, Maintenance Department, 117 Via Avenue, Unit #1, Stuart, VA 24171. Proposals will be accepted until 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 24, 2023. For further information, contact Chad Haynes at 276-694-6984.

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Night Out

(cont. from page 1)

safer, more caring places to live.

It is designed to enhance the “relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.”

Those attending the local event were treated to food and fellowship with members of law

enforcement and other community members. Activities were part of the fun, and local public service organizations were set up to answer questions and give out information.

The event came to a rousing close with music by Olivia Jo, a local bluegrass singer who was nominated last month for the Momentum Instrumentalist Of The Year by the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA).

“This is the 16th time we’ve done this,” Smith said of the event. “It’s a special time for me personally because I love folks in this county and it’s an honor to serve them, and it’s a time for me to show that and our people to show that.”

“We’re indebted to the citizens we serve,” Smith said and reiterated the event was about giving back to the community.



Friends and neighbors gather to have a meal and share downtime with law enforcement and others.



Several community service organizations participated in the National Night Out event.



Land Transfers in July

The following land transfers were recorded in the Patrick County Circuit Court Clerk’s Office in July:

Douglas Bryan Andrews and other to Mark Anthony Godfrey, 1.4127 acres, Peters Creek District.

Ken Ashley to PLP Investment Group LLC, 14.62 acres, Dan River District.

Thomas B. Beasley Jr. to Town of Stuart, tract, Mayo River District, Town of Stuart.

BH Cooper Farm LLC to Sally Terry Rodgers, 9.065 acres, Mayo River District.

Alan H. Black and wife to Appalachian Title Co. Inc., tract, Peters Creek District, Town of Stuart.

Ted G. Brown and other to Sylvia Kay Smith, 28.169 acres, Dan River District.

Jimmie Burke and other to James V. Morton, 2.089 acres and 2.454 acres, Dan River District.

Jimmie Burke and other to Devon Benjamin Krause, 2.384 acres, Dan River District.

Henry S. Campbell and other to Gary M. Bowman II, 36.4264 acres and 7.4838 acres, Blue Ridge District.

Taylor Bradley Coalson and wife to Todd Shoebridge and wife, 1.087 acres, Blue Ridge District.

Jesse Darrell Combs to Jesse Darrell Combs and wife, 1 acre, Mayo River District.

Harold R. Comer to Kelly Marie Webb, 8.248 acres, Blue Ridge District.

Commonwealth of Virginia to Turbo Lab LLC, 4 highway plats, district not listed.

Buddie Cooper to Blair Cooper, Lot 19, Smith

River District.

Bradley Covar to Edwin D. Bransome III, lot, Dan River District.

DKP Properties Inc. to Durga Va LLC, 0.684 acres and 1.926 acres, Peters Creek District.

Dwight Elgin and wife to Dennis Lee Bauch and wife, 1.613 acres, Smith River District.

Jerrell W. Ellis and other to Katherine Louise Moore, 6.819 acres, Peters Creek District.

Family Investments LLC to Crystal Clear Realty LLC, lots, Peters Creek District, Town of Stuart.

Jeannie S. Flowers to James J. Cannaday, 5 acres, Peters Creek District.

Luis A. Fuentes to Christopher D. Fuentes, 3.921 acres and 3.433 acres and 4.723 acres and 6.277 acres and 6.588 acres and 5.750 acres and 5.337 acres, Peters Creek District.

Sean Douglas Harbour to Johnny Lee Brown, 7.609 acres, Mayo River District.

Palma J. Hendrick to Cassandra Maria Louis Johnson, 5 acres, district not listed.

Malcolm Heyworth and wife to Nicole Lee Dailey, 1 acre, Dan River District.

David Hubbard to Rebecca S. Smith, 12.38 acres, Blue Ridge District.

Nathan Isner to James Nathan Isner and wife, 63.49 acres, Smith River District.

Frederick Jackson to Sarah C. Easter, 1/8 undivided interest – 15 acres, Smith River District.

David Jarrel to Alfred Joseph Arnder Jr., 2.145 acres, Smith River District.

Melody Dove Justice to Audra Y. Thomas and other, 5.811 acres, Mayo River District.

Randall D. Kelley and wife to Roy Lee Zeisloft II, 7.37 acres, district not listed.

Mary Lee E. King to Timothy Lee McKenzie, 0.48 acres, Dan River District.

James M. Kreidler to Linda M. Kreidler and other, 3.6 acres, Smith River District.

James M. Kreidler by atty to John Tobey and wife, 3.150 acres and 2.059 acres and 4.968 acres and 1 acre, Peters Creek District.

Stephanie Renee Lacour to Ronald Rickert and wife, 0.684 acres, Mayo River District.

Joel Jacob Lindsey to James R. Mitchell Jr. and other, 0.8 acres, Peters Creek District.

Jerry C. Love and wife to Traci L. Jessup and other, 2.0 acres, and 9.268 acres, and 27.75 acres, Dan River District.

Clayton E. Marshall and wife to Gabriel Luna and wife, 1.05 acres, Dan River District.

Aleta Martin to Trevor Boyd, one half acre, Blue Ridge District.

Linda Barbour Martin by atty to Lawrence Keith Hylton, 1.005 acres, Mayo River District.

Cleat McAlexander to Nancy Clark McAlexander, lot, Smith River District.

Nancy Clark McAlexander to Janice Lynn Simmons, 4 ¼ acres, Smith River District.

Cameron L. McGill and wife to Michael Patrick Colthart, 5.28 acres, Blue Ridge District.

Bobby J. McPeak and other to Kelly Shepard Hooker and others, ½ acre and 12.4 acres, Mayo River District.

George Edward Millsaps Jr. to Robin Dalton Owens and other, tracts in Patrick and Floyd

counties.

John William Moisa and wife to Intrepid Capital & Holdings LLC, 0.58 acres, Smith River District.

Mountain Tract LLC to Mark Daniel Makin and other, lot, district not listed.

Danny Ray Newman and other to James R. Mitchell Jr. and other, 5 acres, Peters Creek District.

Patriot Land Group LLC to Sheryl Semmes and other, 2.1423 acres and 2.0396 acres, Dan River District.

Pendleton Properties LLC to Singh Brothers Investments LLC, 0.92 acres, Mayo River District-Town of Stuart.

Jeffrey L. Pendleton and other to Walter L. Scott, 3.228 acres, Smith River District.

Shelia S. Perdue to Danny Keen and other, 1.31575 acres, district not listed.

Clarence Leon Pilson Jr. to Melanie Pilson Hall and other, 5.6856 acres, Smith River District.

Hilda Puckett to Olen Oneal Puckett and others, 0.75 acres, Dan River District.

Angelica Lynn Rorrer to Joseph Terry Martin and wife, 1.530 acres, Smith River District.

Nancy Elizabeth Ross to Nash J. Heath, 250 acres, Peters Creek District.

Samuel L. White PC, TR, to Handy Rentals Inc., 8.8289 acres, Mayo River District.

Kathy Whitlock Seals to Timothy Aderhold, 24.874 acres, Smith River District.

Secretary Urban Housing Development to Bonifacia Bautista, 2.2955 acres, Dan River District.

William Talbot Sexton and other to Dennis Lee Bauch, 1.608 acres, Smith River District.

Brandon James Simmons and other to Hope Center Ministries Inc., 2.145 acres, Dan River District.

Dennis Simmons and wife to Patrick Brian McNabney, 1.407 acres, Peters Creek District.

Angela J. Sinclair to Brandon J. Simmons and wife, 1 acre and 1.486 acres, Dan River District.

David Langhorne Spangler to OIB Cottage LLC, 10.147 acres, Blue Ridge District.

Jack C. Tapp and wife to Sarah Lynn Morales Cabrera, INT 3.116 acres, Mayo River District.

Adam Patrick McInnis Tarleton to Coy Amos Starr, 5.9236 acres and 0.4544 acres, Smith River District.

Jane E. Terry to Samantha Jo Gibson, 3.4896 acres and 1.11 acres, Blue Ridge District.

Charles M. Tiffin to John P. Tapscott and other, 3.901 acres, Blue Ridge District.

US Bank Trust National Ass. to Terry Richardson, 1.7098 acres, district not listed.

William R. Via and other to Antwon M. Hairston and other, tract, district not listed.

Lawrence J. Winikur to Ahmad Tayyab Haq, TR, 2.984 acres and 2.782 acres, Mayo River District.

Wood Gap Land and Timber LLC to Joshua Cadieux and wife, Tract 33 3.462 acres, Mayo River District.

Woods Gap Land and Timber LLC to Bobby Cummings, 3.072 acres, Mayo River District.

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More than 30 participate in local WIV event

As lead up to the upcoming Women Impact Virginia Summit in October, Reynolds Homestead hosted Women Impact Virginia: Amplifying Voices of Rural Leadership, a free regional event on Wednesday, July 12. The program brought together nearly three dozen women from across the region to network, learn from one another, and explore the unique assets and challenges of the region.

A panel of female leaders participated in a facilitated discussion exploring topics that are impactful to female leaders in a rural region. The conversation showcased the skills and tools needed to find success as a woman in leadership in the rural context. Facilitated by former Women Impact Virginia summit speaker Natalie Hodge,

producer and owner of Rudy's Girl Media in Martinsville, the panel featured three guests: Beth Simms, director of economic development in Franklin County; Petrina Carter, president/CEO of Tri-County Community Action Agency; and Diane Foley, a community paramedic at Martinsville Fire and EMS.

After a morning filled with insightful conversations and inspiring stories, the group learned more about the 2023 Women Impact Virginia Summit at the Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center on Oct. 4, and ended the event with networking and tours of the historic home and grounds at the Reynolds Homestead.

This event was brought to the community with the support of Berry Elliott Realtors, Inc.



Fawn-ing for a photograph

This doe and her two fawns ventured into the clearing of Mary Dellenback Hill's yard, plans to do some serious grazing when something caught their attention.

Stuart market participates in national event

Stuart Farmers Market joins markets across the country in celebrating National Farmers Market Week from August 6-12.

The Patrick County Library will be on site on Friday, Aug. 11, with programming at 10 a.m.

Farmers markets foster shared values between community members and farmers which can work to create a more fair and sustainable food system. This community focus has been on display throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic, as market managers innovated to continue their essential operations for the farmers and shoppers who depend on them.

National Farmers Market Week is an annual celebration of farmers markets proclaimed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and coordinated by the Farmers Market Coalition, a membership-based nonprofit organization that supports farmers markets nationwide through training, technical assistance, and network-building. This year, the campaign is centered around the essential role that farmers market operators play, both in our local food systems and in our communities. For more than fifty years, farmers markets have influenced the way Americans eat, shop, and connect to their food, their farmers, and one another. Farmers markets are more than market places, they are places where neighbors learn, grow, and work together.

The Stuart Farmers Market began in 2002, and currently hosts over 16 farmers selling a wide variety of products, including locally grown fruits, vegetables, honey, farm raised meats, baked items, coffee and crafts. Our market is a community hub and weekly gathering place for residents. We also see a lot of tourists who come through the market on the way to the parkway.

"Farmers markets are changing the way we eat, shop, connect, and more," said Ben Feldman, Policy Director of the Farmers Market Coalition. "Across the country, farmers markets are defining their role in our communities. Markets are designed in partnership with the people they serve and are a place where market operators, farmers, shoppers, and neighbors can collaborate to meet the evolving needs of their community. Throughout National Farmers Market Week 2023, we will be highlighting the ways farmers markets are making change in communities nationwide. Join us!"

Visit the Stuart Farmers' Market in Downtown Stuart on Fridays, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Learn more about all the weekly events on the market's Facebook page.

Saturday, October 28, 2023
Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m.

Jackson River Scenic Trail—Intervale Trailhead
1903 Dressler Drive, Covington, VA 24426

Visit www.runforboyshome.org
to register or call 540-965-7707
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Annual Harvest Hustle set

Boys Home of Virginia will host their 7th annual fall fundraising event, the Boys Home Harvest Hustle 5K, 10K and half-marathon on Saturday, October 28. This event has grown each year and continues to offer a fun, yet competitive event for runners and walkers alike. Boys Home is very thankful for all sponsors and participants that have continuously gone above and beyond each year to provide support for Boys Home, their students, and their mission.

All three races will begin and end at the Intervale Trailhead of the Jackson River Scenic Trail, in Covington, VA. The event will offer aid stations along the race routes with water and Gatorade available. Each participant will receive a unique T-shirt and participation medal, as well as snacks and drinks before and after the race.

An awards ceremony for each race will begin approximately 30 minutes after the top three men and women racers cross the finish line. Top three finishers male and female overall and top three male and female in each age category will receive awards. The age categories are: Under 12, 13-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69 and 70+.

Race weekend schedule:
*Friday, October 27 - 4 - 6 p.m. - Drive-th-

ru packet pickup at Boys Home of Virginia, 414 Boys Home Road, Covington;

*Saturday, October 28 - 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. - Registration and packet pickup
9:30 a.m. - Half-Marathon begins
9:45 a.m. - 10K begins
10 a.m. - 5K begins

Registration for the 5K is \$30, 10K is \$40, and the half-marathon is \$50, with early-bird pricing

available before September 8. Discounts are available for running clubs and teams. To register, or for more information, visit www.runforboyshome.org or call Melinda at (540) 965-7707.

Boys Home of Virginia, founded in 1906, provides a healthy and supportive environment for young men whose lives have been negatively impacted by poverty or family instability. Students are provided food, clothing, shelter, and guidance in a manner that supports the successful transition to adulthood along with educational and career opportunities. Boys Home, a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization, is almost entirely privately funded by individuals, organizations, churches, and foundations. For more information visit www.boyshomeofva.org.

Virginia educators encouraged to apply for AITC grants

Educators who want to start projects that help students understand agriculture are encouraged to apply for Virginia's Agriculture in the Classroom's educator grants.

Virginia AITC has over \$30,000 available for the 2023-24 school year to support hands-on classroom agricultural experiences. Teachers and other organizations like 4-H clubs and FFA chapters that work with schools, and parent-teacher associations can apply for up to \$500 for agriculture-related initiatives.

The deadline for grant applications is Oct. 13, and applications received by Aug. 15 will be eligible for AITC's early decision. This expedited notification allows educators to begin their projects at the beginning of the school year. Educators who complete the application early will be notified by Sept. 8.

"School-age children in all grade levels across Virginia have an opportunity to investigate agriculture, whether by growing a garden, hatching chicks or even creating a community ag library," said Tammy Maxey,

Virginia AITC's executive director. "This program increases awareness of how we interact with our environment and spurs ideas about how to meet our needs today and in the future."

Grant projects may occur at school or in the community, and may include learning gardens, STEM integrations or unique agricultural experiences for students.

During last year's program, AITC awarded 71 grants, reaching 25,000 youth. One grant project was led by Laura Dysart of Chesterfield County's Salem Church Elementary School. For the Seed to Table School Garden project, students in each grade used seed kits to grow vegetables like cucumbers, lettuce and tomatoes. Students also built a cucumber trellis and laundry line for the climbing vegetables, and were responsible for maintaining the school garden. They ate the garden produce in a salad, and even brought some of their harvested vegetables home.

"This has been such an exciting project for

our students," said Dysart, the school's library assistant. "Students learned about the growing process from seed to table and expanded their interest in gardening and cultivating their own food. It was a huge success!"

To apply for a grant, or to learn more about educational activities available through Virginia AITC, visit virginia.agclassroom.org/teachers/grants.

In addition to the educator grants, AITC will be launching a hydroponics back-to-school giveaway in September. K-12 educators statewide will have an opportunity to enter a raffle for a HYVE® LF-ONE hydroponics system.

The Virginia Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that promotes a greater understanding and appreciation of agriculture through education and outreach activities. For information about Virginia AITC's fundraising efforts, including the current John Deere Lawn Tractor Raffle and the upcoming AITC Clay Shoot, visit virginia.agclassroom.org/donors/events.

Online Learning Innovations Summit Held at Surry CC

The 2023 Online Learning Innovations Summit was recently held over the course of three days at Surry Community College. The theme of this year's summit was "Achieving Student Success in a Digital World."

The event was hosted from July 26 through July 28 by the Virtual Learning Community (VLC) and drew over 145 attendees representing 42 different North Carolina community colleges. Attendees also represented the VLC and the Distance Learning Team from the North Carolina Community Colleges System's Technology Services and Distance Learning Division.

The first day of the summit focused on the future of online learning, breaking down data from online enrollments at community colleges, preparing North Carolinians to enter the workforce, the rise of Artificial Intelligence and ChatGPT, and Open Educational Resources for faculty to use. A tour of the Surry Cellars winery, located at SCC, was provided for attendees.

Guest speakers included: Bill Schneider and Dr. Emily Smail of the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS); Dr. Candace Holder, Senior Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs at Surry Community College and Director of the VLC Quality

and Assessment Center; Cynthia Liston of myFutureNC; Preston Roseboro of Piedmont-Triad Prosperity Zone; Caroline Sullivan of the North Carolina Business Committee for Education; and Michael Vaughn of OpenLMS; Joanna Schimizzi of Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education (ISKME).

The second day of the summit highlighted student success and retention, learning analytics, learning management systems, Quality Matters courses, and how to harness creativity when dealing with real-world challenges.

Guest speakers included: Dr. David Shockley, President of Surry Community College; Dr. Robert Talbert of Grand Valley State University; Liz Simpson and Dr. Tonya Riney of IntelliBoard; Dr. Alan Mueller of Adaptive Change Consulting; Shannon Creighton, Jason Miller and Luvon Hudson of Anthology; Kara Conger and Michael Vaughn of OpenLMS; Gavin Henrick of Brickfield Education Labs; Darrin Evans of Wake Technical Community College and the VLC; and Colleen Galan of Fayetteville Technical Community College and the VLC.

The third day closed the summit with intense focus on accessibility in online courses and websites, as well

as on campus. State authorization licensure and requirements were also covered in detail.

Guest speakers included: Terrence Scarborough of State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement North Carolina (SARA NC); Kathy Davis of NCCCS and the VLC; Dr. Candace Holder, Senior Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs at Surry Community College and Director of the VLC Quality and Assessment Center; Judith Risch, J.D., Ph.D, of the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education; Laura Bracken of Surry Community College; and Karen Duncan of Gaston Community College.

The Virtual Learning Community (VLC) is a collaborative effort of the North Carolina Community College System for developing online course content and providing support services for the benefit and success of distance learning students, educators, and eLearning administrators. The VLC's mission is to support local colleges' distance learning initiatives through developing and editing resources for curriculum and continuing education online and blended courses, offering faculty training, and best practice trends and new technologies.

To learn more about the VLC, go to vlc.nc-communitycolleges.edu.



The Virtual Learning Community (VLC) recently hosted the 2023 Online Learning Innovations Summit at Surry Community College. From left to right: Darrin Evans, Director of the Professional Development Center at Wake Technical Community College; Dr. Candace Holder, Senior Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs at Surry Community College and Director of the VLC Quality and Assessment Center; Colleen Galan, Director of the Technology Center at Fayetteville Technical Community College; and Kathy Davis, Associate Vice President of Distance Learning Technologies with the North Carolina Community College System.



The Online Learning Innovations Summit 2023 brought together over 145 attendees representing 42 North Carolina community colleges, as well as the VLC and the North Carolina Community College System Office.



Surry Community College English Instructor, Dr. Kathleen Fowler displays a national DAR award for her creative writing skills.

Instructor Wins Award in DAR Writing Contest

Surry Community College English Instructor, Dr. Kathleen Fowler recently earned national recognition for her creative writing skills.

Her short story, "The Silver Whistle and the Petticoat Spies" won third place in the American Heritage Literature and Drama Contest hosted by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR). The contest is open to Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) members around the world.

Her achievement was announced at the DAR National Awards Presentation held during Continental Congress, June 27, in Washington, D.C. However, because she was not able to attend, DAR awarded her certificate and ribbon at the District IV meeting on July 21, in Statesville.

Fowler's short story celebrates the history behind the Overmountain Victory Trail, which has a trailhead in Elkin. The path follows the footsteps of the brave Overmountain men during the Revolutionary War who hunted the British major, Patrick Fergusson and his Loyalist militia. The Overmountain men surrounded and defeated Fergusson's Loyalists at King's

Mountain. Their victory turned the tide of the war and led to the British surrender at Yorktown a year later.

Fowler is a member of the James Hunter Chapter of the NSDAR and has recently been elected regent of that chapter. DAR is a non-political, lineage-based, women's service society whose members all trace their ancestry back to the Revolutionary War. Their focus is on education, patriotism, and preserving history.

"What an honor it is to be part of such a wonderful and talented group of ladies," states Fowler. "Researching local history and visiting the Overmountain Victory Trail and King's Mountain gave me a new and deeper appreciation for the brave men and women of Surry County who fought for our freedom during the Revolutionary War. I wrote my story in remembrance of them, and I am happy other people enjoyed it."

Fowler's short story has been published in the NSDAR American Heritage Committee's 2023 Book of Winners and can be accessed digitally through the members' website at dar.org.

Ferrum to welcome First Panther Promise Students

Ferrum College will welcome back new and returning students beginning on August 4. Freshman and transfer students will return to campus on August 10 with returning students following on August 13. For the first time, students benefiting from the Panther Promise free tuition program will be among these students.

"I am excited to welcome home all of our new and returning Panthers in just a few days! I have missed seeing them on campus this summer, and this is my first time welcoming new freshmen home to Ferrum College for the Fall semester. It is extra special to have 200 Panther Promise students among our Freshmen and returning students. I know we are all looking forward to an exciting new academic year," said Ferrum College president, Mirta Martin.

Freshmen can look forward to exciting activities and valuable information and training sessions during Connection Weekend after check-in and moving into their dorms. First, students will come together for a Playfair activity - the ultimate icebreaker and the most popular attraction during new student orientation. This will be the time when the Freshman students can foster new friendships, meet returning students, and also enjoy time before classes start.

On Friday and Saturday students will spend time in various resource information sessions learning all about the campus and important topics for them to be successful. These sessions will include academic success, counseling and support services, campus safe-

ty, and Title IX.

On Saturday afternoon, the focus of the weekend shifts to the College Motto 'Not Self, But Others' with Freshmen participating in not one, but two service projects. First, the new Panthers will participate in a service project with Harvest Pack. "We are excited to welcome Harvest Pack back to campus," said Jill Adams, dean of campus life. "They address food insecurity by working with volunteers like our students to bring meal packing events to their local communities. In January, the College partnered with Harvest Pack to provide 25,000 meals for local community members, and we are thrilled to have the Class of 2027 being their time at Ferrum serving others."

Then, on Sunday August 13, while the returning students move into their new dorms and attend their orientation sessions, Freshman students will participate in a Day of Service event with Ferrum Forward, a local community group that supports the Ferrum Village area and strives to enhance cooperation among local businesses, the college, and the general population.

"We love having the Ferrum students connect with our community," shared Bob Pohlad, emeritus Ferrum faculty member and Ferrum resident. "Not only do we hope this will instill the motto 'Not Self, But Others', but also a sense of belonging and connection to the greater Ferrum community."

Monday August 14 will be the first day of classes. At 4 p.m., the college will hold a convocation with an all campus picnic to follow.



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
The Stuart Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. in the town office.

Events

Thursday, Aug. 10
The Buffalo Ridge Community Crime Watch meeting, 7 p.m. at Sycamore Baptist Church. Trey Joyce of Branch Civil speaking on the U.S. 58 Lovers Leap construction project.

Friday, Aug. 11
National Farmers Market Week and Library Program, 10 a.m. at the Stuart Farmers' Market, which is open from 8 a.m. to noon.

Saturday, Aug. 12
Catfish Tournament to benefit Valerie Smith, 4 p.m. blastoff from Boat Ramp #1 (Marina) at Philpott Lake. \$40 entry fee, \$10 big fish optional. Weigh in at midnight. 50/50 payout, payout for heaviest bag. Call Jonathan Scott at (276) 229-1700 for more information.

Operation Christmas Child will hold a Full Circle Speaker and Project Leader Workshop from 5-7 p.m. at the Rotary Building in Stuart.

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.

A Benefit Catfish Tournament for Valerie Smith will be held at Philpott Lake. There is a \$40 entrance fee. Blastoff is at 4 p.m. and weigh in is at 12 a.m.

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.

Thursday, Aug. 17
The Patrick County Republican Committee will meet at 6 p.m. in the Motorsports Hall of Fame Auditorium. Sen. Bill Stanley and Del. Wren Williams are expected to attend.

Friday, Aug. 18
The Stuart Farmers' Market will be open from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Free blood pressure checks will be available.

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 Ridge, Car Show, and Fish Fry at Mt. Nebo Holiness Church. Registration for the ride starts at 9 a.m.; 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.

Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department will hold a country breakfast from 6:30-10 a.m. Dine in plates are \$10 for an adult and \$5 for a child. All to go plates are \$10. To place an order, call (276) 930-2113.

Sunday, Aug. 20
The 68th annual Griffith Reunion will be at 1 p.m. at Griffith Valley in Woolwine. All descendants of Tyler Griffith are asked to attend and bring a covered dish and a good family story. Call Bruce at (276) 692-5310 for more information.

Homecoming at Ross Harbour Methodist Church, 6260 Elamsville Road. Special Singing at 10 a.m., with worship at 11. David Gaylor is the guest speaker.

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.

Monday, Aug. 21-Wednesday, Aug. 23
Revival at Ross Harbour Methodist Church, 6260 Elamsville Road. Special singers and speakers each night.

Thursday, Aug. 24
Charcuterie Class at the Patrick County Branch Library. A \$5 nonrefundable supply fee od required to register. For ages 18 and over.

Friday, Aug. 25
The Stuart Farmers' Market will be open from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. There will be a monthly Master Gardeners program and pressure canner seal checks.

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

Every Friday Night (The Crooked Road), Open Jam at Willis Gap Community Center 144 The Hollow Road, Ararat. Doors open at 6 p.m. Music gets underway at 7. Food is available.

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 holds Rook games every Monday night from 6:30-8 p.m.

Last Tuesday of each month, Golden Oldies, Open Jam at Willis Gap Community Center, 144 The Hollow Road, Ararat, with 50s, 60s, 70s Rock and Roll. Doors open 6 p.m. Music gets underway at 7. Food is available.

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.

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.

NOTICE

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

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DHALL@THEENTERPRISE.NET

A Gem Hidden in Callaway

Nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains in Callaway, Virginia lies a sanctuary built on love, connection and community. This special place has a rich 121 year history.

Phoebe Needles Center, Inc. is a nonprofit serving people of all ages throughout southwestern Virginia offering facility rentals and a variety of educational, spiritual, and renewal programs designed to nurture people in their spiritual formation. Phoebe Needles is best known for its wonderful and engaging summer camp programs for youth, Center for Lifelong Learning programs for seniors, and for spiritual retreats.

Upon this strong foundation, a vibrant future is planned by the PNCI Board and Inge Terrill, the new Executive Director hired this summer. She is replacing Reverend John Heck, who over a 25 year period designed, built up, developed programs and made PNCI the educational center and accredited camp that it is today.

Terrill comes to Phoebe Needles with a background in Biology, Environmental Science, and Education. Her vision for Phoebe Needles is for it to stay strongly grounded in its mission and current offerings while growing as an organization to help meet the current needs of local communities and to

expand its program offerings for people of all ages.

“We will be looking for strong partnerships with school systems, local groups, nonprofit organizations, and individuals going forward. We want to help youth and adults better navigate our ever-changing world and set them up for successes in life,” says Ms. Terrill. Three of our existing partnerships are with the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, Saint Peter’s-in-the-Mountains Episcopal Church in Callaway, and with the American Camp Association.”

“We welcome all people to our beautiful and relaxing 78-acre facility for events such as retreats, weddings, parties, family reunions, meetings and lodging, as well as to participate in our educational programs.”

On Sunday, October 1st, Phoebe Needles will be launching an annual fall festival fundraiser with music, storytelling, food, and family fun activities to help raise awareness about its programs and its outreach as well as raise money for programs. This event will include a tribute to Rev. Heck’s 25 year legacy at PNCI.

To get involved, make a donation, or learn more, please contact PNCI at 540.483.1518, pncenter@gmail.com, or phoebeneedles.org.



Inge Terrill was appointed the new executive director of the Phoebe Needles Center, Inc.



Phoebe Needles Hall



McCauley Hall



Swimmers



Art Camp

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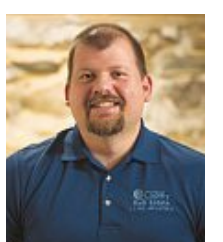


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