



THE ENTERPRISE

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

Company responds to service concerns



More than two dozen residents attended the August 14 Patrick County Board of Supervisors meeting.

By Taylor Boyd

After hearing criticisms about connectivity and communications services in the area, a representative from Brightspeed discussed the company's goals at an August 14 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Scott Strader, Supervisor of Region Operations (SRO), said his territory includes Martinsville, Henry, and Patrick counties.

Ensuring customers throughout are satisfied is "dear to my heart," Strader said. "Hearing about lines laying on top of the ground and different things been on the ground for so long, I'm here. I would talk to anybody in this room, and I would be more than glad to help anybody here."

Stader assured those attending the meeting that Brightspeed wants "to take care of their plan. They want to update their plan, and they

have the money to do it. So, we're looking forward to doing that, and I'd be more than glad to help in any way I can.

"Our customers matter to us at Brightspeed, and I'm going to prove that to each and every one of you," he said.

Brandon Simmons, of the Dan River District, said he understood that when purchasing the
 (See Service Concerns p. 3)



Larry Hall addressed the Stuart Town Council about the need for a noise ordinance at an Aug. 16 meeting.

Town residents make case for noise ordinance

By Taylor Boyd

The Stuart Town Council heard from residents about the need for a noise ordinance, and the enforcement of a derelict property ordinance at its Aug. 16 meeting.

Larry Hall said a noise ordinance is needed. He added that he can hear a neighbor's radio from around 300 feet away.

"If you can hear a radio that far away, it was turned on 12 minutes after 12 p.m. today and it was still going when I left. And we listen to it for" hours, Hall said. "Thursday, it was on before midday. Day and night."

The town currently does not have a noise ordinance, Mayor Ray Weiland said.

"We've been back and forth on this over the years. I know that. I think what we can really do right now is send letters and ask (Hall's neighbor) for some cooperation," he said, noting the town has usually had cooperation in these matters.

"We can certainly talk to them and see what the issues are and try to figure that out, but I think obviously you call the police" to report the noise, Weiland said.

Hall said the council also needs to
 (See Noise Ordinance p. 3)

Rep says customers are a primary concern

By Taylor Boyd

Brightspeed seems to be making good on its commitment to customers, and according to Scott Strader, that is as it should be.

As the Supervisor of Region Operations (SRO) for Patrick and Henry counties and Martinsville, Strader said the company's main concern is its customers.

"Our customers are important, and I want to be hands-on with everything that we do. Patrick County, Henry County, wherever I'm at, I want to make sure they know that I'm there and I can help them if they need it," he said.

Lisa Allen, who detailed her concerns at the August 14 Patrick County Board of Supervisors meeting, said Strader scheduled a time for a work crew to visit her home to install service.

"They came out and installed" the line. "I took that day off, and we worked together, and they did the whole deal. They installed the landline and the internet, and it worked on that day," she said.

Allen said her father, Tom Bishop's, issue was taken care of before he even spoke at the supervisor



Scott Strader, Supervisor of Region Operations for Brightspeed, said its customers are the company's main concern. (By Pat Delaney)

meeting.

"I'm pretty impressed," Allen said, and added that she feels a lot more confident with Brightspeed than previously, and is pleased with the service she received.

"Except for the fact that we do have an exposed line already, and it's because when they bury it, they
 (See Brightspeed p. 12)

Skyline Bank celebrates opening with ribbon cutting

By Taylor Boyd

As some banks close brick and mortar locations in lieu of electronic service, Skyline National Bank celebrated the opening of its Meadows of Dan branch with a ribbon cutting.

The new bank is located in the former Truist Bank building.

At the celebration on Friday, August 18, Blake Edwards, president and CEO of Skyline, recalled that he was invited to come to Meadows of Dan to meet a few people in the community to discuss potentially opening a branch in the community in December.

"I'm literally expecting to come over and meet maybe five to 10 civic, business leaders in the community. I'm thinking, 'how do I gracefully tell them no? Usually, communities of this size, the demographics don't work, so we're probably not going to be able to help.'

"I came with that thought in mind," Edwards said.

However, when he arrived, he had a difficult time finding a place to park, because more than 100 people attended the community meeting.

"It was that strong community support, that's why we're here to-



Frontier Farm and Home Center, LLC, Meadows of Dan's newest business, officially opened on Friday, August 18.

Appliance, hardware store opened Aug. 19

By Taylor Boyd

Meadows of Dan's newest business, Frontier Farm and Home Center, LLC, opened its doors to customers on Friday, August 18.

In addition to selling general hardware equipment and tools, the company also stocks building supplies, garden tools, lumber, feed, outdoor wooden seating, paint, storage buildings built to spec on site, and other equipment.

Norman Zook, Sr., president, said he started the business because he felt there is a need for it in the community.

"We are here to support the community and be a benefit to the community," he said.

After moving to the area about a year ago from Kentucky, Zook said he started to seriously consider opening the business in January.

"We moved here with an open mind of we are here to support the community, what are the needs of the community? We soon discovered since we were remodeling and building our own, hey there's a need for something more local in hardware and building supply line. So,
 (See Appliance Store p. 12)



Skyline National Bank opened its Meadows of Dan branch with a ribbon cutting on Friday, August 18.

(See Skyline p. 12)

Tourism Talks

Hello Patrick,

The office has been buzzing since the Tourism Summit and the wins Patrick County brought home. Wow! That excitement and buzz are continuing, and this weekend we had another great gathering. The mountain was alive with locals and tourists along the Parkway, and Meadows of Dan held its 19th annual Folk Festival. Trinity Goad and the entire Meadows of Dan Team did an outstanding job. The weather cooperated, the vendors were plentiful, and the many faces that I saw seemed pleased all day long. Blessed is what we are in Patrick County. Not only in the county, but the state as well.

Let me give you some state numbers this week, and in the upcoming weeks, we will have some local numbers for you. Keep in mind that this is the State Tourism Report given by the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

*In 2022, overnight visitation to Virginia increased by 10% to 42.2 million visitors, up from 38.3 million in 2021.

*Virginia's tourism industry generated \$30.3 billion in visitor spending across all communities in 2022, a 20.3% increase from 2021.

*Visitor spending exceeded 2019 levels by 4.4% in 2022. Travelers spent \$83 million per day in Virginia in 2022, up from \$69 million in



2021.

*In 2022, the tourism industry in Virginia directly supported 210,721 jobs, an increase of over 25,000 jobs relative to 2021 but still down about 30,000 jobs relative to 2019

*Virginia's tourism industry directly supported \$8.6 billion in labor income, an increase of 16% from \$7.1 billion in 2021.

*Virginia visitors directly drove nearly \$2.2 billion in state and local tax revenue in 2022, an increase of 19.1% from \$1.8 billion in 2021.

*Visitor spending offset \$880 in state & local tax collections for every Virginia household in 2022.

*In 2022, Virginia's visitor economy activity added \$23.8 billion to Virginia's total GDP, an increase of 16% from 2021.

Again, these numbers are state-

wide! In a few weeks, we will have our local numbers to share with you.

Finally, one last note. We are having a drawing at the Visitor Center. We are giving away two tickets to the Atlanta Braves vs. the Washington Nationals game on September 22nd. You must visit the center to fill out the form to win. We are driving visits to our center! Drawing to be held on Facebook Live on August 30. Come by a fill out a ticket for your chance to win!

Thank you, Patrick County, for your support. We invite you to; "Come Get Lost and Find Yourself Here."

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

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

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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!

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- Size: 1.52 acres

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THE
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Service Concerns

(cont. from page 1)

business, Brightspeed “took over a very bad mess and bad equipment and bad lines and stuff, and now you’re trying to fix it.”

“That’s an understatement,” Strader said, adding that work began almost immediately following the acquisition and continues.

“I can’t get it done overnight, but if you bear with me and give me an opportunity, I will make it back where it needs to be. That’s my plan, that’s Brightspeed’s goal,” Strader said.

Clayton Kendrick, chairman of the Mayo River District, said Strader has been good to respond to residents’ issues. Referencing concerns from a Pole Bridge Road resident, Brightspeed “got that fixed on a Saturday, all those wires hanging on that 911 sign and all that stuff,” Kendrick said, and added, “I think some customers even got credits on their bills and stuff to help out there.”

Denise Stirewalt, of the Peter’s Creek District, asked Strader to inform Brightspeed’s corporate office about the importance of landline service in the county, “because so many do not have cell service, and I would hate for somebody to lose their life because they couldn’t call 911.”

Equating Brightspeed’s purchase of the former CenturyLink system to a landfill, Doug Perry, of the Smith River District, wondered if it would be cheaper to start from scratch “instead of trying to patch stuff that’s been in the ground since 1962, I would imagine.

“Is there any kind of maybe schedule or are you just reacting? Do you have a plan for updating the whole county because it needs it, or are you just in reaction mode,” Perry said.

Strader said Brightspeed is currently in reaction mode while working to determine limitations/issues with the current system.

“We just took it in October, so almost November of last year. We haven’t been a year yet. We’ve done a lot, and it’s going to take a while, but we are in reaction mode right now,” Strader said.

Several residents spoke about their phone and internet issues.

Before becoming a resident of the county, Lisa Allen said she had vacationed here for about 20 years.

“My parents moved here and built a home in 2002. When the pandemic began, I was thrilled to have the opportunity to build a home on the land they had given me 20 years prior. So, I contacted several builders, and we built a home,” she said.

Allen received the certificate of occupancy on Aug. 1, 2021, and immediately called CenturyLink, and made an appointment for them to come out to install a phone and internet service.

The company visited her property and measured the distance of her home from her parent’s home, and concluded it was 1,400 feet—which was against its rule of 1,000 feet.

“They had emailed me the contract for installation, and I had signed it and returned the email and I have the fine print from that. They said, ‘In limited circumstances, the construction charges may exceed these amounts for reasons like extensive work is required, or your premises

are a significant distance from our network. Before starting work, we will access the property, review charges with you for approval, and we may cancel with no further obligation.’ And that’s exactly what CenturyLink did,” she said.

Allen said she built a brand-new home in her favorite place in the world and could not get a phone or internet. During that time, she also signed up to start an online M.A. program.

“So, I lived in my home for two years and I have earned an entire master’s degree, and completed it in educational leadership, without internet at my house. There were times when the school system would cancel school due to snow, and I wouldn’t even get the automated call,” she said.

Tom Bishop discussed a neighbor’s telephone line.

“From the box near the street, there’s an orange wire laying on top of the ground running up to this person’s house. It’s been there for several weeks, so apparently there’s no urgency to put that underground,” he said.

Bishop said when he mows the grass, he has to be careful not to mow over the cord.

“I don’t know what’s going on. I think it’s a long time that they should have put that cable in the ground,” he said.

Jamie Clark said while he does not have Brightspeed, his mother does.

“She has a heart pacemaker and other chronic health problems. During the last six weeks, she has had to deal with her telephone being out of service over 10 times. Sometimes the phone will be out for a few hours, other times several days,” he said.

Clark said he’s reported these outages, and once his mother had to wait more than a week for a restoration of her service. When the technician arrived at her house, Clark told him he had already checked for a dial tone at the box at her house and there was no dial tone coming into the house.

“He said that the problem was inside of her house with a wiring issue, and I assured him that no one had touched her phone wiring in years. So, he said that it was a problem inside of her phone and that she needed a new phone. So, my mother went and purchased a new phone. Guess what, no phone service,” he said.

When his mother’s service was restored, she talked to her friends who experienced an outage during the same time.

Like others, Clark said his mother’s pacemaker is monitored daily by a doctor. It has the ability to send a Bluetooth signal to a device in a phone that sends information about her heart to the doctor’s office. Another option is for the device to use a cellphone to send this information to the doctor.

“We all know that there are lots of places in Patrick County that have no cellphone service, so this option is not available to a large number of county residents that have pacemakers or other implanted medical devices,” he said.

Clark said county residents have access to life-saving tools like Life-Alert, home burglary alarm systems, and fire alarms with smoke de-

tectors.

“All of these systems were designed to save life and property. However, they are designed to use a home telephone line to summon help when an emergency arises. Without a working telephone system, these systems are useless,” he said.

As a former paramedic, Clark answered a call for help one Sunday morning at 7 a.m. for a woman who fell on her bathroom floor at 11:30 p.m. the night before. Clark said the woman laid on the floor all night in pain because she didn’t want to call until daylight because she knew that the squad was all volunteers and didn’t want to bother them while they were sleeping.

“She had a working phone line that night, just imagine if she didn’t. When you live alone, your telephone is literally your lifeline,” he said.

Clark said his wife was unable to connect to her work computer because the speed was so slow and unreliable. After he went 21 days without internet service, he switched to Comcast.

“Just drive down Route 8 and count the number of trees that have fallen over on the phone lines or how many phone pedestals are uncovered or laying on their sides across the county,” he said.

In other matters, the board:

- *Approved the meeting minutes.
- *Approved the bills, claims, and appropriations.
- *Appointed Dayna Bobbitt to the Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) Board.
- *Authorized counsel to settle for the amount discussed for the corporation tax litigation.
- *Heard an introduction from the new Economic Development Director Patrick Cooper.
- *Heard an introduction from the new shared grant writer Charles Drake.
- *Approved an amendment to the fiscal year 2023-2024 budget for Patrick County Schools.
- *Approved allowing Department of Social Services (DSS) Director Joan Rogers to hire a human services aide.
- *Heard the year-end report from Treasurer Sandra Stone.
- *Approved a resolution setting the Personal Property Tax Rebate (PPTR) at 30.5.
- *Approved an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) request for funds to use for repairs for the Patrick County Child Advocacy Center (CAC).
- *Approved a resolution for the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act from the ANCHOR Commission.
- *Heard an update from P&HCC President Dr. Greg Hodges.
- *Heard the county administrator’s report.
- *Heard the supervisors’ reports.
- *Approved a contract with Hill Studio for professional services relating to a possible revitalization of properties in Stuart. It will be paid for by a \$40,000 Industrial Revitalization Fund (IRF) Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) grant for Hill to do evaluations, studies, and potential artist renderings of improvements the county could see.



Patrick County Department of Social Services (DSS) Joan Rogers requested funds for a human services aide position.



Scott Strader, a Supervisor of Region Operations (SRO) for the areas of Patrick and Henry counties and the City of Martinsville, discussed the company’s goals for the future and commitment to its customers.

Pets of the Week



This pretty girl is a hound mix. She is wearing a collar, so someone is missing her. She was found on Dog Wood Road, and she would love to go home. If you recognize her, please call the shelter.

This black pit mix is waiting patiently for someone to adopt her. She is sweet and well behaved.

Please remember, if your dog doesn’t come home, 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.

The Patrick County Animal Welfare Society’s (PAWS) spay/neuter program for dogs is now back on track. Call (276) 694-2378 and leave your contact information so someone can call you back.



Noise Ordinance

(cont. from page 1)

do something about the derelict properties, and the blight ordinance needs to be enforced.

“I’m serious about that. If you don’t enforce them then you need a new town council and a new town manager, that’s how I feel,” Hall said.

David Wilson said he called the town about four years ago about getting a mess near his home cleaned up, but it hasn’t happened yet.

“I talked to somebody else, and they said, ‘oh we’re afraid to go down and talk to him (property owner). He’s crazy,’ and walked away and left. Well apparently, he’d like to live next to a dump, because that’s what we are living next to - a dump,” Wilson said.

Weiland said the council’s blight committee has been identifying areas that need to be cleaned up.

“We do have some leeway if there’s a certain amount. We’ll have to go and access the situation and see exactly what’s needed. We send out letters, we give the owners plenty of time to take care of it,” Weiland said.

After a certain period of time, if there is trash and the like in the yard, Weiland said the town goes in and cleans it up.

“We are working on it,” he said. “We’ve got rid of some other really dilapidated buildings and that sort of thing. We’re working on some more that we have right now. We’re taking small bites right now, little bites at a time,” he said.

Town Manager Bryce Simmons said he believes this is the first year the town has ever set aside funding specifically for blight remediation.

“We are trying to be very strategic in the properties that we are trying to remediate,” he said. Weiland said the town will do what it can.

“We’re not going to ignore it. We’ll start out the process, we need to access it and make sure what exactly is out there that we need to do,” Weiland said.

In other matters, the council:

- *Approved the meeting minutes.
- *Paid the bills.
- *Heard an update on public works projects.
- *Heard an update on the wastewater treatment plant.
- *Discussed the caboose.
- *Discussed the idea of part of Stuart becoming an Urban Designation Area.

Second Quarter Accomplishments



Morgan Griffith
Representative

In April, I reflected on what we have been able to accomplish in the House of Representatives during the first three months of the year.

Now that it is August, let's look back through the rest of spring and summer.

Legislation Passed

My legislation, the HALT Fentanyl Act, to permanently schedule fentanyl analogues, passed the House in May with bipartisan support, with a vote of 289-133. It is now pending in Senate. I hope they will vote on this important legislation soon.

Also in May, House Republicans passed H.R.2, the Secure the Border Act, in an effort to combat the humanitarian crisis at our southern border. Unfortunately, Biden Administration policies have led to increased rates of human and drug smuggling. They have also led to an historic number of unaccompanied minors living in our country, many being exploited and abused (see below). The House Republicans' bill will force the Biden Administration to restart the construction of the border wall, deploy needed technology to increase security to both the southern and northern borders, and provide funding to increase the number of border patrol agents. It will also strengthen current law aiming to protect unaccompanied children from human trafficking.

In late April, House Republicans passed H.R.734, the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2023, legislation to ensure that women and girls have a fair playing field in sports by guaranteeing that schools adhere to Title IX's recognition of biology and genetics of an individual at birth. This bill is about fairness, which is why I was an original cosponsor. Women fought for years for equal opportunities in sports. Why should women be forced to sacrifice playing time and scholarship opportunities? They shouldn't.

The House has also passed other impactful legislation, like the fiscal year (FY) 2024 National Defense Authorization Act, the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization bill, and the FY 2024 Veterans Affairs appropriations bill.

Committee Work

The Energy and Commerce (E&C) Committee has worked hard on issues within its jurisdiction.

As Chairman of the E&C Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, I have held 13 hearings since the beginning of April. One focus of the subcommittee is to provide oversight of the U.S. Department of

Health and Human Services (HHS).

We have worked to hold HHS responsible for their abject failure to competently manage the record number of unaccompanied minors in this country. While we may disagree on what brought these kids to the U.S., once we have taken responsibility for these children, we have a moral obligation to ensure they have the care they need.

We have also explored emerging public threats like antimicrobial resistance (bacteria that is resistant to antibiotics) and how phage therapy (the process of using viruses that kill or weaken bacteria by attacking the bacteria) can combat this growing problem.

I am also a member of the Health Subcommittee and Energy Subcommittee. In the Health Subcommittee, we have held hearings covering our country's overdose crisis, a serious problem in our district and our nation. We also continue to look for ways to lower our health care costs, whether that be Medicare or prescription drug costs.

On the Energy Subcommittee, we have held hearings about the need to secure our nation's power grid, a real problem in the age of ever-increasing cyberattacks.

We have also looked at all of the above solutions in energy, including the future of nuclear energy in the United States. Nuclear energy is a dependable energy source and with the advent of small modular nuclear reactors, it is a potentially more significant electric provider for the future. That does not mean that we, and the rest of the world, will not need thermal coal.

I also serve on the House Administration Committee. The Committee continues to examine our country's elections and voting processes. In July, Committee passed the American Confidence in Elections (ACE) Act, which included my NO VOTE for Non-Citizens Act. The bill reaffirms it is a crime for non-citizens to vote in our federal elections and withholds some federal dollars from state/local jurisdictions that allow non-citizens to vote in their elections.

The Committee has also done oversight work over the U.S. Capitol Police (USCP), bringing in the USCP police chief, inspector general, and police board. I am investigating the sweetheart retirement deal granted to former Assistant Chief Pittman, which was revealed to the public through our hearings.

There is more work to be done between now and the end of the year. I will continue to take our Fightin' Ninth values to Washington.

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Politics ... well, maybe

Can I talk to you about politics, but not really politics? I really mean to talk about level-headed thinking and getting along with your neighbors in 2024.

Years ago, I bought an antique lapel pin at the Hillsville flea market that said, "Kennedy For President." Well, the pin is no longer an antique as Bobby Kennedy Jr. is now running for President. I've never voted for a Democrat, but I'm looking seriously at Bobby (I've only been eligible to vote for three elections and in the first one I didn't vote at all).

The first thing that caught my ear was when Bobby said that more gun control would not cause less crime. I said, "Amen!" America has a heart problem, not a gun problem. Plenty of Americans believe in the Second Amendment and don't even own a gun.

The second thing Bobby said that caught my ear was that if elected he would end "chronic illness" in America. Not that he would magically cure illnesses, but that he would put pressure on the pharmaceutical companies. People have gone from "patients" to "customers." There are illnesses that could be reduced or treated by a lifestyle change instead of throwing pills at them. Again, I said, "Amen!" Many didn't trust the modern American health industry before 2020, and now even fewer do.

However, a headline was published stating: "RFK Jr. Supports Abortion Up To Birth." I shared that quote with a friend of mine, and they said, "Nope.

I'm done with him."

Here's where I say level-headed thinking. Candidates say things that have no chance of fruition; candidates say things to corral the constituents. What difference do Bobby's opinions on abortion limits make? A President cannot overturn a supreme court decision, and in 2022 the Supreme Court ruled to make abortion a "states issue." Translation: I could still vote for RFK Jr. and not feel bad about it.

In 2016 Donald Trump said if elected he would abolish the Department of Education. Didn't happen. Ron DeSantis has said that if elected he will abolish the I.R.S. We all know that will never happen. Politicians make empty promises and then citizens fight with each other for four years. We can do better.

Do you know that headline on RFK's abortion views came after he had said that he only supported abortion through the first trimester? During an interview with NBC RFK Jr. answered, "yes" when asked, "Would you sign federal bill capping abortion to the first 21 weeks of pregnancy?" People began to cry, "He's not a Democrat!" while others cried, "He's waffling!", but I say that's par for the political course.

You're going to vote for whoever, and so will I, but in the meantime, I actually live next door to you. I see you at the bank; I go to church with you. I refuse to allow a 4-year cycle make me feel angry towards you. I hope you think the same of me.

Caleb Robertson,
Martinsville

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

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Weekly SUDOKU

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Letters to the Editor/Viewpoints Policy

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

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

Patrick Pioneers

Andrew and Martha Jane Boyd Clifton
By Beverly Belcher Woody

Last week, we learned how Bart and Andrew Clifton walked from their home in Price, North Carolina to the Brushy Mountain Quarry in Blacksburg to acquire millstones for their father's new gristmill.

The young men depended on families along the route to give them food and shelter. One of the families they stayed with was Chesley and Sallie DeHart Rakes where Bart fell in love with their daughter Sarah. Another family who gave the young men shelter in the Round Meadow area was Henry and Sarah Nancy Cockram Boyd. It was there that young Andrew met their daughter Miss Martha Jane Boyd.

After helping their father set up the gristmill in Price, North Carolina, Bart and Andrew returned to the Blue Ridge Mountains and began courting Miss Sarah and Miss Martha Jane.

Andrew Martin Clifton and Martha Jane Boyd were married on the 24th of June 1858 in Patrick County. The young couple's first son, John was born in 1859 followed by Andrew Jackson, born in 1861.

According to military records, Andrew enlisted in the 12th Virginia Infantry on the 25th of March 1862 in Patrick County. This record is confusing because the 12th Virginia was mostly raised in Petersburg, Virginia. I can't confirm if he possibly enlisted in the 50th or 51st Virginia and was transferred to the 12th Virginia, but I suspect that is what happened. Further military records show that Andrew was mustered out on the 15th of June 1862.

Tragically, Andrew and Martha's oldest son, John, died in 1862; he was only three years old. John was likely a victim of the diphtheria that was tearing through Patrick County in the fall of 1862. Martha's uncle, John Bishop Cockram and his wife Mahalia Nannie Cruise Cockram lost nine of their eleven children to diphtheria in the last months of 1862, with some of the children even dying on the same day.

Andrew and Martha's sons, Lupert Morton was born in April of 1863 and William Robert in May of 1865. The couple's fifth child was a daughter, Nancy Harriet, born in 1869. The couple had three more children, Emory Dean, Leahvannie, and Mary.

In 1963, Andrew and Martha's grandson, the late Fred Clifton, wrote down some memories of his grandmother.... "She always wore a black bonnet and carried a clay pipe in her apron pocket. She would smoke an herb she called Life Everlasting to help with her asthma." Most folks know Life Everlasting by the less poetic name of rabbit tobacco, and it has been used for lung maladies by Indigenous Peoples for centuries.

Andrew and Martha's son, Andrew Jackson married Rosa Rakes and served as postmaster of the Cruise post office. Lupert Morton married Laura Rosabelle Cockram, and their oldest son was Fred Clifton. William Robert married Mahalia Adeline Rakes and Nancy Harriet married traveling optical glasses salesman, Putnam Napoleon Boyd. Emory Dean married Ruhama Jane Hylton and moved his family to Roanoke where he worked as a jeweler. Leahvannie and her husband Russell Brice Cassell and Mary and her spouse James Matthew Cruise also moved to Roanoke to work and raise their chil-



Andrew Martin Clifton and Martha Jane Boyd Clifton. (From Fred Clifton Collection)

dren.

Andrew and Martha continued to live on their farm in Vesta, with Martha passing away first, at the age of 78. Andrew passed away at age 91, three days before Christmas Day, 1930. The couple is buried in the Lewis Cemetery in Vesta.

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 - When Should My Wife Claim Social Security?

Dear Rusty: My wife will be 65 next year, and her full retirement age is 66 years plus 10 months. Can she collect 50% of my Social Security benefit at her full retirement age and then get her own higher personal amount at age 70? Her own amount at her full retirement age is \$1,100 per month but her age 70 amount is \$1,800. My Social Security is \$2,300. Suggestions welcome. Signed: My Wife's Helper

Dear Helper: Your wife cannot separate her spousal benefit from her personal Social Security retirement benefit - whenever she claims she will be automatically deemed to be filing for both her own benefit and her spousal entitlement. Thus, she cannot claim her spousal benefit first at her full retirement age and defer claiming her own SS retirement benefit until she is 70. When your wife should claim is, essentially, a decision which should consider the urgency of her need for the money, her life expectancy, whether she will be eligible for a spouse benefit from you, and whether she is working.

If your wife claims before her full retirement age (FRA) and is working, she'll be subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits how much she can earn before some SS benefits are taken away (Social Security's earnings test goes away at FRA).

Average life expectancy for a woman your wife's age is about 87. If your current \$2,300 benefit

is a result of you taking your Social Security at your full retirement age or earlier, then your wife will receive a small "spousal boost" from you. If she claims at her full retirement age, your wife's total Social Security payment will be 50% of the amount you were entitled to at your FRA and that will be her permanent amount, except for annual COLA increases. However, from what you've shared, your wife's age 70 amount is considerably more than her maximum spousal benefit so, if her life expectancy is long, that suggests she may wish to consider waiting until age 70 to claim her own maximum benefit. By doing so, your wife will get more in cumulative lifetime benefits if she achieves average life expectancy.

The unknown factor is your life expectancy because, as your widow, your wife will be entitled to 100% of the amount you were receiving at your death, instead of the smaller amount she is receiving on her own or as your spouse. If life expectancy is long for both of you, then your wife maximizing her own benefit by waiting until age 70 to claim is a prudent choice. But if your, or your wife's, life expectancy is shorter, then your wife claiming at her full retirement age would be a better decision.

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

Intermittent Fasting... Does It Work?

The big three areas of healthy living are diet, exercise, and sleep. One, currently popular dietary technique...is intermittent fasting. So, what is intermittent fasting and what are the benefits? This is a program where you restrict your calories based on time. Fasting also does not mean total lack of food, it can just mean a reduction of food/calories taken in as in the amount or type of food (e.g., only high fiber, whole foods before lunch). Also, water and coffee are typically not counted in most fasting programs.

Ways of Intermittent Fasting

There are almost unlimited ways to do this, but here are the most common ways:

1. Alternate day fast. Total fast from food 2-3 days a wk or every other day.
2. 5:2. Eat normally 5 days a week, but cut down calories to 500 (for women) or 600 (for men) 2 days a week. Typically, these are set days such as Tuesday and Thursday, but it can be tailored to each individual need.
3. Time restricted eating or feeding. The best example of this is 16:8 which is where you eat, or feed, for only 8 hour a day and fast for the other 16 hours.

There is also data that shows that even fasting 5 days a month leads to health benefits. That would be about 1 day week! Also, many people will build up to 16 hours fasting not just start there. An example would be to start off fasting for 12 hours and feeding 12 hours a day for several weeks and then decreasing the feeding time by 2 hours. For the 5:2 plan you could cut down to 1500 calories on your fasting days for several weeks then to 1000 calories, and then finally to the target goal of 500-600 depending on gender.

What Ever Doesn't Kill You...

So, we know what intermittent fasting is, but why would we want to do it? Low level stressors activate our cellular survival systems priming them for when we need them the most.

To explain this concept. One is the old saying that 'whatever doesn't kill you will make you stronger.' That's basically true. If you can survive a stressor, you'll know what to expect and be better prepared mentally and physically for it next time. The other great example is exercise. Exercise is a low level stressor that allows us to tolerate and withstand a similar stressor the next time, getting stronger as a result.

David Sinclair, PhD who is a longevity researcher and expert at Harvard, and author of the book Lifespan states that there are 4 major things that impact longevity: 1) calorie restriction is the most robust, 2) then food quality, 3) then exercise, and finally 4) cold exposure. As you can see 3 of the 4 factors are low level stressors. Also, he doesn't do intermittent fasting, he just typically skips lunch as a method of calorie restriction.

Intermittent fasting induces a host of cellular changes. It increases cell survival, it enhances metabolic pathways (better glucose and cholesterol maintenance), increase mitochondrial function and energy production, and increases the production of brain derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) which improves brain function.

Interestingly enough intermittent fasting does 2 things. One it shrinks your stomach so it's easier to get that full feeling which signals your brain to stop eating. Also, over time fasting increasing leptin production which is an anti-hunger hormone which tells our brain that it does not need to eat!

In summary, intermittent fasting is simple, easy to do, adaptable to your lifestyle. It helps you lose weight, but more importantly helps you lose fat while helping lower your blood pressure, blood glucose levels, and cholesterol levels. It primes your epigenetic survival systems to help you live longer. Also, it's the only program that can be used with ANY diet program out there. Experiment with different fasting programs and see what works for you.

(Submitted by Betty Dean. m o s t . Written by Harvey Hahn, MD, T h e r e are 2 e x - a m p l e s that help

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New district, new challenges for PCHS Golf Team

By Pat Delaney
With their move into the Three Rivers District, Patrick County High School's (PCHS's) Golf team will face some new challenges this season, with new teams to face and new courses to play. Most members of the Cougar team will see many of the courses for the first time on match day. "That makes it challenging, trying to figure out distances and yardages," said Head Coach Philip Steagall. Among their Three Rivers opponents will be two-time defending state champs, Floyd County. Steagall also feels Radford and James River will field strong teams. PCHS seniors Kylee Joyce and Lauren Worley, who have played on the team since 8th grade, feel playing new courses isn't all bad. "I think it's good because you don't know about the bad," said Joyce. On August 14, the Cougars played at the Pete Dye River Course in Radford. "There was one hole with water on it, and it didn't get into my head because I didn't know it was there." Lauren Worley, who shot an 85 at The River

Course, called playing on a course for the first time, "a learning experience." Parker Roop finished with a score of 88, Joyce shot an 89, and Chance Corns shot a 90. Steagall said, "We played well on a tough course today. We are getting better in our short game. We just need to continue to get better in the weeks ahead." Both Worley and Joyce agreed that many of the courses also offer amazing scenery and views, which only adds to the enjoyment of playing. For other team members, it's all new. Sophomore, Kendra Worley, said, "I'm excited, but I'm also a little nervous because it's my first year on varsity. I'm not really sure what to expect, but I'm excited." As a team, the Cougars played well at The River Course, cutting twenty shots off their overall score from the previous match. "We just have to get stronger in our short game around the green and save some strokes," said Steagall. While there is no district tournament in the

Three Rivers, the Cougars will host a sub-regional tournament on September 28 at the Olde Mill Golf Resort in Laurel Fork. Other teams competing will be Floyd, Chatham, Gretna, Dan River and Martinsville, with the top three teams advancing to the regional tournament. In addition, the top six individuals not on one of the top three teams will also move on to regionals for a chance at the state tournament. For Kylee Joyce and Lauren and Kendra Worley, there is also a girls' regional tournament at Greens Folly Golf Course for a chance to advance to the state tournament individually. The goal for the Cougars is to continue to improve their games as the season progresses toward the sub-regional tournament. Steagall said the team just has to continue to "shave some shots each week, and hopefully, we'll get there." The Cougars' next match is on August 24 at Hanging Rock Country Club. The next home match is August 28 at Gordon Trent Golf Course. (Ashlee Mullis contributed to this report.)



Cougar colors are on display as the team readies for practice.



Coach Stegall addresses the team prior to practice.



Cougar golfers working on their short games.

P&H team looks forward to new season



The 2023 P&HCC Volleyball Team.

By Pat Delaney
There is plenty of excitement on the Patrick & Henry Community College Volleyball Team for the new season. "We have a lot of new talent and I'm really looking forward to what we can do in raising the numbers this year," said sophomore Emma Hankins, who added that the team chemistry is very good this season. "Everyone is getting along really well," added sophomore Jordan Haas. One reason for the chemistry is the positive leadership from the returning sophomores. Freshman Gracie Rigney recalled that on the first day, she was "nervous, as any freshman would be. But by the second day, I just felt so

welcome. Emma was very welcoming when I first came in, and I was so nervous." "This year, I really feel the importance in leading and taking that responsibility very seriously," said Hankins. Haas, who didn't play volleyball in high school, said, "I can't give advice on the court, because everyone's been playing longer than I have. However, I can keep up the energy, and I can try to motivate people and stay positive." And there is another area she feels she can help lead the team. "I try to be a leader on the academic side, and try to encourage people to go and study, and manage their time seriously because education is what's most important," she



P&HCC volleyball players (R-L) Gracie Rigney, Jordan Haas, Emma Hankins during media day.

said. "That's a good thing about P&H. They focus on education overall, and I think that's a very important aspect. Let's be honest, none of us are going to go play professional volleyball. So, we might as well get an education," said Haas, who is studying nursing. Hankins, who is working on her

associate degree in science, agreed. "It's always been academics before sports. I was always taught, to get good grades, then you get the privilege of playing the sport you love." As for the sports she loves, her new teammates, and the new season, she added, "I'm just really excited to play."

Ten Ways to Help Keep Student Athletes Safe in the Heat

This summer has seen extreme heat linger over a large swath of the country. As student athletes begin to prepare for the upcoming fall season, coaches are reminded that heat and humidity can be especially hazardous for their young players. The American Red Cross offers ten ways coaches can help keep players safe:

- *Avoid scheduling outdoor workouts and exercise during the hottest times of the day — schedule them for early in the day or later in the evening.
- *Reduce the intensity of workouts or exercise until athletes are more accustomed to the heat.
- *Encourage players to drink plenty of water to avoid muscle cramping or heat-related illness. Fluids should be consumed frequently during strenuous activity and within a half hour of training.
- *Incorporate warm-ups — even high school athletes need to stretch their muscles before strenuous exercise to help prevent injury.
- *Plan frequent and longer breaks. Ideally, pause practice about every 20 minutes for athletes to drink fluids and rest in the shade if possible.
- *Reduce the amount of heavy equipment athletes wear in the extremely hot weather. Instead, encourage net-type jerseys or lightweight, light-colored cotton T-shirts and shorts.
- *Use the buddy system to encourage athletes to

drink water and watch for signs of illness in their teammates.

- *Know the signs of heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke.
- *Have an emergency plan in place. Emergency situations may arise at any time during athletic practices and events. Knowing what to do and how to respond quickly are critical in providing the best possible care to the athletes in emergency situations.
- *The first responder to an emergency situation is, typically, a member of the training, coaching, strength, or physician staff. Prepare for the unexpected with first aid and CPR training from the Red Cross. We offer both in-person classes and online training. Through our classes, you will not only learn how to perform first aid but have the confidence and skills to do it correctly. Learn more here.

HEAT-RELATED EMERGENCIES
HEAT CRAMPS are muscle pains and spasms in the legs or abdomen. Heat cramps are an early sign of trouble, and athletes should inform those in charge if they are not feeling well. If someone is experiencing heat cramps, get them to a cooler place to rest, lightly stretch the affected muscle, and slowly replenish their fluids with a half a glass (about 4 ounces) of cool water every 15 minutes.

HEAT EXHAUSTION is a more severe condition signaled by cool, moist, pale or flushed skin; heavy sweating; headache; nausea or dizziness; or weakness and exhaustion. To treat heat exhaustion, move them to a cooler place, remove or loosen tight clothing and spray the person with water or apply cool, wet cloths to the skin. If they are conscious, give small amounts of cool water to drink slowly. If the person refuses water, vomits or begins to lose consciousness, call 911.

HEAT STROKE Heat stroke is a life-threatening emergency when someone is overwhelmed by heat and their body begins to stop functioning. Signs include hot, red skin that could be dry or moist; changes in consciousness; vomiting and high body temperature. Call 911 immediately if someone shows signs of heat stroke. If possible, move the person to a cooler place and immerse them up to their neck in cold water. Otherwise, douse or spray the person with cold water, or cover the person with cold, wet towels or bags of ice.

DOWNLOAD OUR FIRST AID APP The Red Cross First Aid app puts instant access to information on handling the most common first aid emergencies at your fingertips including heat-related emergencies. Download this app by searching for 'American Red Cross' in your app store or at redcross.org/apps.

William Byron Dominates at Watkins Glen

By Holly Cain
NASCAR Wire Service

William Byron added to his season highlight reel earning his first career NASCAR Cup Series road course victory with a dominant win in Sunday's Go Bowling at The Glen at historic Watkins Glen (N.Y.) International.

It marks a career best fifth victory of the season - tops in the NASCAR Cup Series and most for him in a single season in a six-year career in NASCAR's top series. And the 25-year-old Charlotte native had to earn this one - holding off another championship challenger, Denny Hamlin by a healthy 2.632-seconds for the win. Byron led an impressive 66 of the 90 laps - extending his advantage over the field each lap of the final 10 lap-run to the checkered flag.

"Yeah, I would have to think about that a little bit though," Byron said when asked if he felt like it was his most dominant race win. "But it definitely feels really good, just a huge credit to the race team behind me. I want to thank Max Papis. My first road course win and we worked years and years for this.

"Thanks to all the guys on the team. I did a lot of laps on iRacing this week, got a new simulator at home. It's a great win. It shows when we're at our best we can perform like this."

Byron, who won Stage 2 on Sunday, noted the timing is important as the series heads into the Playoffs.

"We seem to go through that summer slump in July and August and for some reason we just can't put the races together, I think it's the race tracks themselves. But this weekend, we came with a good mindset and focused on getting ready for the post-season. We've had fast cars just haven't executed races, but today was flawless."

Hamlin's runner-up finish keeps the NASCAR Cup Series regular season championship still up for grabs. He trails his Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Martin Truex Jr. - who finished sixth - by 39 points heading into next week's Daytona regular-season finale.

Joe Gibbs Racing driver Christopher Bell finished third with Kaulig Racing's A.J. Allmendinger and JGR's Ty Gibbs rounding out the top five.

Truex, Roush-Fenway-Keselowski Racing's Chris Buescher, 23XI Racing's Tyler Reddick, Team Penske teammates Ryan Blaney and Joey Logano rounded out the top 10.

With finishes of 15th and 21st, respectively, Roush-Fenway-Keselowski Racing owner/driver Brad Keselowski and Stewart-Haas Racing driver Kevin



William Byron, driver of the #24 Valvoline Chevrolet, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Go Bowling at The Glen at Watkins Glen International on August 20, 2023 in Watkins Glen, New York. (Photo by Chris Graythen/Getty Images)

Harvick both locked themselves into the 2023 Playoffs based on points. That leaves only one position to be decided in next Saturday night's regular season finale at Daytona International Speedway.

23XI Racing's Bubba Wallace solidified his hold on that all-important 16th place in the points standings that could automatically transfer him into his first Playoff berth. Although Wallace concedes road course racing is not his strongest suit, he did exactly what he needed to, turning in a non-dramatic, consistent day. Wallace, who said he had a valuable phone conversation with six-time IndyCar Series champion Scott Dixon before the race, earned points in both stages. And his 12th place finish was his best road course finish of the five run so far this season.

He now holds a 32-point advantage on the Joe Gibbs Racing rookie Gibbs and a 43-point advantage on Trackhouse Racing's Daniel Suárez.

"Just executed really," Wallace said, noting that no new race winner Sunday certainly helps his cause in pursuing his first ever Playoff berth.

"I'm proud of myself and that's the first time I've felt proud of myself after a road course race. Just executed and didn't lose focus, maybe one time. And that's the difference-maker. You've got to stay on it in these places. Hats off to my team for sticking with me and believing in me.

"Great day for the 23-team," he added. "Now we get to go into Daytona, still stressful as hell but it takes a little bit of the edge off."

On the flip side of fortune, it was a troublesome day for two of the other high-profile teams still needing to race their way into the upcoming Playoffs and needing a race win.

Hendrick Motorsports' Chase Elliott - the five-time and reigning Most Popular Driver in the NASCAR Cup Series - came into the race already depending on a high speed Hail Mary of sorts. He was 80 points behind Wallace at the green flag. But Elliott's team was slowed by an uncharacteristic fuel miscalculation. His No. 9 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet ran out of fuel with 23 laps remaining, stopped on-course and brought out a caution flag to push him back to pit road for a fuel-up.

Elliott returned to race a lap down and finished 32nd and is now 21st in the standings.

The three-time Daytona International Speedway polesitter will need to earn his first win at the superspeedway to advance to the Playoffs this season and keep his eight-year run of championship eligibility going. Elliott has two runner-up finishes at Daytona, in the 2020 summer

race and the 2021 DAYTONA 500. He finished 29th in the summer race there last season.

Elliott wasn't made available to comment after the race.

"That's sort of the agony of a four-car team when one car does so well," Hendrick Motorsports executive Jeff Gordon said of the day at The Glen. "It just shows you can't make any mistakes.

"Unfortunately, we had some mistakes," he added, "Clearly it was a miscalculation with the 9 car [Elliott] and that was huge."

Trackhouse Racing's Daniel Suárez started the day only one position out of the top 16 - 28 points behind Wallace. But Suárez was the first of those on the Playoff bubble to encounter issues - going off-course at the famous "bus stop" portion of the Watkins Glen course and brushing the wall only five laps into the race.

The off-course excursion dropped him from 10th place at the time to 24th in the field and he had to play catch-up all day, ultimately finishing 22nd. He goes into the Daytona season-finale next week 43 points out of the top 16 and also needing a victory.

The rookie Gibbs actually improved his standing among those still within Playoff reach as the regular season closes. The driver of the No. 54 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota - who led a race best 70 laps in Saturday's NASCAR Xfinity Series race at Watkins Glen - ran among the top five all Sunday afternoon as well. His fifth place finish Sunday was best among those in the close fight for a Playoff berth. He goes to Daytona Beach 32-points behind Wallace and needing a win.

"I felt like we were really fast," the 2022 NASCAR Xfinity Series champion Gibbs said. "I just didn't do a good job of getting through the guys in front of us. I feel like we were much faster than three of them in front of us and I just couldn't get by them."

Of his move into 17th place in the standings, and placing himself on the cusp of a Playoff berth, Gibbs said, "I don't really know what mindset to have going there just to stay clean and try to make it to the end and have a good finish."

The NASCAR Cup Series regular season finale to set the 2023 16-driver Playoff field takes place at the Daytona International Speedway with Saturday night's 's Coke Zero Sugar 400 (7 p.m. ET, NBC, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio). Austin Dillon is the defending race winner. Ricky Stenhouse Jr. won the DAYTONA 500 in February.



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PCHS Golf Team 2023 Hill-Clark Family Reunion Opens Season

By Ashlee Mullis
The PCHS Varsity Golf Team opened their first season in the Three Rivers District, August 10th at

Olde Mill Golf Club.

The Cougars shot a 372 in their 5th place finish in the match that was won by Floyd County who shot a 327. Chance Corns led the Cougars with an 88. Parker Roop shot a 92, Lauren Worley shot a 94, and Carter Gregory shot a 98.

"Our first match in a new district on a wet and tough course," said Coach Philip Steagall. "We are looking forward to a good season as we adjust to playing courses that we have not played on in this new district."

The descendants of James Hill (October 13, 1864-March 22, 1919) and Jenny Clark (October 12, 1870-March 24, 1941) gathered in Patrick County on July 21-23, 2023, for the 15th Hill-Clark Family Reunion. We Are the Hope and Dreams of our Ancestors, was the theme for this year's family reunion. The itinerary included a fish fry on Friday at Fairy Stone State Park, a banquet on Saturday at the New College Institute in Martinsville, and concluded with church service on Sunday at Hylton Thessalonia Primitive Baptist Church in Stuart.

The first Hill-Clark Reunion was held in Stuart in 1980 and has been hosted by family members in various states including Georgia, Maryland, Michigan, Tennessee, and West Virginia. The turnout was noteworthy including a 72-year-old couple who traveled from West Virginia to attend their first family reunion.

The importance of recognizing our ancestors and celebrating family ties can be summed up in this poem penned by Donnell Hill entitled Turn the Page. Let us not forget the ones, that have come and gone. The ones who have paved the way for us to carry on. From generation to generation passing down hope and love still watching over us now from the heavens above. Let us not forget the ones that are still with us here today. Like a beacon in a storm, they help to guide our way. Their light gives us strength so that we can hold steadfast. Bridging the gap from our present back to our past. Let us teach our children for the future is in their hands. Give them the tools so that one day they can make their stand. The future is coming, and we all can help to set that stage. Another year is upon us so let's smile and turn the page.

The 2025 Hill-Clark Family Reunion will be held again in Patrick County. Until then be safe, keep in touch, and remember to Turn the Page.

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PCHS Sports Schedule

Patrick County High School's Sports Schedule for the week of Aug. 24-30 is below:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| 8/24 2 p.m. Golf (Hanging Rock CC) | | at Glenvar |
| 8/24 7 p.m. Volleyball | | vs Dan River |
| 8/25 7 p.m. Football | | at Martinsville |
| 7/28 7 p.m. Volleyball | | at North Stokes |

Mr. John Randolph Turner

Mr. John Randolph Turner, age 72 of Roanoke, passed away Friday, August 11, 2023, at Lewis Gale Medical Center in Roanoke. He was born in Danville on December 20, 1950. He was preceded in death by his father, Charles Randolph Turner. John had worked for the S.C.C. in the Bureau of Safety and Soundness for over 40 years. He served in the U.S. Army and was a member of Spring Garden Community Church. Among the most treasured aspects of John's life were the friendships he forged during his years at the University of Richmond. During his four years as a Spider at UR he was a member of Phi Delta Theta



Fraternity. The friendships he formed during that span have lasted a lifetime. Thank you to the following "Brothers" who have enriched John's life for 50+ years: Donald Baxter, Bill Webb, Chris Taylor (deceased), Danny Nichols, Ron Maelstrom, and Greg Williams. Surviving is his lov-

ing wife of 31 years, Dr. Cheryl Mabe Turner of the home; his mother, Dorothy Grove Turner; two brothers and sister-in-law, Dr. Mark Grove Turner, Richard Charles and Susan Turner; and two nephews, Zachary Randolph Turner, and Richard Benjamin Turner.

A graveside service will be held Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at 2:00 PM at Patrick Memorial Gardens with Dr. Brad Smith officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Spring Garden Community Church, c/o Linda Owen, 1781 Transco Rd., Chatham, VA 24531. Online condolences may be sent to www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Treva Delene Hughes Morrison Phillips

Treva Delene Hughes Morrison Phillips, age 76 of Stuart, passed away Sunday, August 13, 2023 at Blue Ridge Therapy Connection in Stuart. She was born in Washington, DC to the late Patrick Jewell Hughes, Sr. and Monnie Delene Pendleton Hughes. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a son, John Daniel "J.D." Phillips. She attended Grace Baptist Church and was Grammy to her grandchildren, two of which she raised, Emma



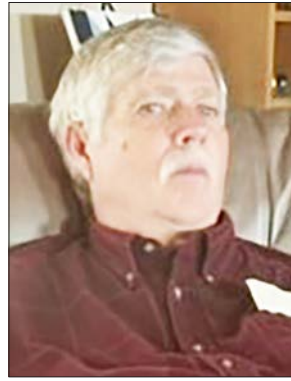
and Jade. She had a love for flowers and the woods, and was a talented artist who enjoyed drawing, painting and ceramics. She also was a great seamstress. Treva is survived by

three daughters, Michelle Delene Morrison, Heather Dawn Morrison Spence (Eddie) and Rebecca Diane Phillips; twelve grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; three siblings, Patrick Hughes, Jr., Beverly Siler and Kenneth Hughes; and many nieces and nephews.

All services will be private. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is in charge of the arrangements, and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

George Tatum "Buddy" Turner

George Tatum "Buddy" Turner, 71, of Collinsville, Virginia passed away Thursday, August 17, 2023 at his residence. Buddy was born December 10, 1951 to the late George Walker and Mary Susan Tatum Turner. He was a 1970 graduate of Fieldale Collinsville High School and attended Virginia Tech. He was a mechanic with the school bus garage for



over 5 years. Buddy is survived by

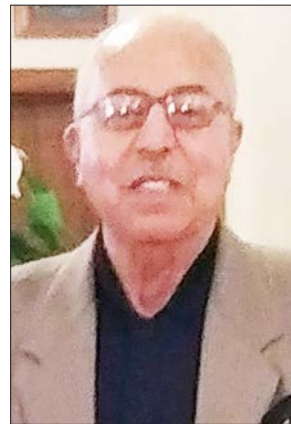
numerous cousins and friends.

A graveside service will be held Wednesday, August 23, 2023 at 11:30 AM at Sycamore Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Roy McVey officiating.

Wright Funeral Service and Crematory is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at www.wrightfuneralservices.net.

Bishop "Papa" Willie Lee Reynolds

Bishop "Papa" Willie Lee Reynolds, age 86 of Patrick Springs, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on August 16, 2023. He was born in Patrick County on May 5, 1937, to the late Roosevelt Reynolds and Ellen Cobb Reynolds. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Elizabeth Tatum Reynolds; one son, Robert Reynolds; two grandchildren, Anthony Jevon Reynolds, Stephanie Chanel Reynolds; three great grandchildren, Seven Garnes, Hope Garnes, Dayshaun Garnes; one sister, Frances Clanton; and six brothers, Bishop James, Theodore, Oscar, Loir, Moir, and David Reynolds. Papa Willie drove a school bus with the Patrick County School System for over 49 years. He was the founder of True Gospel Holiness Church in Martinsville.



Surviving are five daughters and sons-in-law, Roberta and George Penn, Becky and Calvin Helms, Gracie Hagwood, Judy Reynolds all of Patrick Springs, Betty Tatum of Stuart; five sons and daughters-in-law, Willie and Gail Reynolds, Jr. of Patrick Springs, Leander and Linda Reynolds of Spencer, Emmanuel and Tammy Reynolds of Mar-

Virginia Mattox both of Stuart; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A Homegoing Celebration will be held Sunday, August 20, 2023, at 2:00 PM at True Gospel Holiness Church with Elder Frank Tatum officiating, and Pastor Leander Reynolds eulogizing. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. A wake will be held one hour prior to the service at the church. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is handling the arrangements. Online condolences may be sent to www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Mr. Sherman Eugene Thomas

Mr. Sherman Eugene Thomas, age 81 of Stuart, Virginia passed away at his home on Saturday, August 5, 2023. He was born in Henry County on October 8, 1941, to the late John Marshall Thomas and Mary Louise Kitzmiller Thomas. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one granddaughter, Anna Caroline Clark; and two sisters, June Thomas, and Betty Ann Bowman. Sherman was a member of T.R.A.S.H. Ministry. He faithfully served his country in the United States Army. Sherman was a retired long distance and local truck driver. He loved riding his Harley, especially to Myrtle Beach and was a former member of Henry County Bassmasters. He will be remembered for his great sense of humor, driving boats



and motorcycles too fast to scare his passengers, making memories with family and friends, and how much he loved his family; being Papa Sherman to his grandchildren was his greatest joy.

Left to cherish the memory of Sherman Thomas are his devoted wife, Betty Joe Roberson Thomas of the home; one daughter, Sandra T. Clark (Lee) of Roanoke; two grandchildren, Cary-Grace James (Josh) and An-

drew Perry Clark (Allison), all of Roanoke; one great-grandson, Miles James; six siblings, John Thomas of Arizona, James Thomas of Bassett, Lewis Thomas of Collinsville, Karen Orr of Martinsville, Tony Thomas of Martinsville, and Bonnie Bowman of Collinsville; one half-sister, Fran Hoffhens of Colorado; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life service will be held on what would have been Sherman and Betty's 62nd wedding anniversary on Saturday, August 26, 2023, at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart at 11:00 a.m. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the services at the funeral home Saturday morning. Online condolences may be made by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Harvey Harold Roop

Harvey Harold Roop, 74, of Critz passed away suddenly and unexpectedly at his home on August 14, 2023.

Harvey was born to Marshall Edwin and Hazel Gilley Roop on January 7, 1949. In addition to his parents, he is also preceded in death by his youngest brother, David Roop and aunt, Annie Roop to whom he was her caregiver.

Harvey retired from Bassett Mirror Company after forty-nine years of service in 2015. His sole purpose to retire was to be happily keep and spend time with his only grandson, Parker before starting school.

Surviving Harvey is his loving, dedicated wife of fifty-two years, Darlene Underwood Roop; his daughter, Andrea Amos and husband Mike; his son, Adam Roop and wife Alicia; and his grandson, Parker Roop; also grandpups Tucker, Nyla and Goose.

Also surviving are his sisters, Carolyn Bowles and Jean Ramey (David), brother, Stanley



Roop; brothers-in-law Gerald Underwood (Marie), Doyle Underwood (Mary Grace) and Roy Bowles (Vickie); sisters-in-law Debra Burge (Jerry); bonus grandchildren Amanda and Rob Higgins, Brandon Amos; bonus great-grandchildren Riley Higgins, Lilli Higgins, Mason Duncan and WilLOW Bousman; numerous nieces and nephews, special neighbors along with special friends, Doug Edwards and Eddie Gunter.

Harvey was a humble, quiet man that adored and possessed a love for his family like no other. Harvey loved to pick/joke, family vacations, to garden, cook and got

the most joy of seeing the people he loved sitting around his table to eat.

A visitation will be held on Saturday, August 19, 2023, at 10 a.m. Collins Funeral Home, 30 Riverside Hwy, Bassett, VA followed by a Funeral Service at 11 a.m. with the Rev. Dr. JD Harmon officiating. Interment will follow in Patrick Memorial Gardens, Stuart, VA.

In lieu of flowers it is requested that any donations be made payable to the scholarship fund set up for Parker Roop c/o Adam Roop 1621 Hollandsworth Drive, Bassett, VA 24055.

Pallbearers will be Adam Roop, Parker Roop, Mike Amos, Ronnie Bowles, Gerald Underwood and Doug Edwards with honorary pallbearers, Doyle Underwood, Roy Bowles and Eddie Gunter.

Online condolences at www.collinsmckee-stonebassett.com. Collins Funeral Home is respectfully serving the Roop family.

Rev. Theodore Clinton "Ted" Turman

The Reverend Theodore Clinton "Ted" Turman of Mount Airy passed into the arms of Jesus on Monday, August 14, 2023, at the Joan and Howard Woltz Hospice Home in Dobson. A funeral service will be held Saturday, August 19, 2023, at 2:00 PM at Blackwater United Method-

ist Church in Ararat, North Carolina with Mr. Graham Atkinson, Reverend Charlie Fried, and Reverend Billy Pendleton officiating. The burial will follow in Bell Spur Community Cemetery in Meadows of Dan,

Virginia. The family will receive friends at Moody Funeral Service in Mount Airy on Friday, August 18, 2023, from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM. Online condolences may be made at www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

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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. Proposal deadline extended until Tuesday, August 29, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

LEGAL

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 4271 WILLS GAP RD, ARARAT, VA 24053. In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated March 4, 2009, in the original principal amount of \$80,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Patrick County, Virginia as Instrument No. 090000425. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Patrick County, 101 West Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, Virginia or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court on October 2, 2023, at 4:00 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: LYING AND BEING IN DAN RIVER MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF PATRICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA AND BEING ALL OF THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING 9.75 ACRES BY SURVEY OF J. F. SMITH, CERTIFIED SURVEYOR, DATED MAY 7, 1946; AND BEING ALL OF THAT TRACT OF LAND DESCRIBED AS LOT NO. 2 IN THAT DEED FROM JOE SMITH AND EFFIE SMITH, HUSBAND AND WIFE, TO J. W. MARTIN AND LEAH BOWMAN MARTIN, BY DEED DATED JUNE 28, 1954, AND OF RECORD IN THE AFORESAID CLERK'S OFFICE. LESS OUT-CONVEYANCE OF 1/4 ACRE AS DESCRIBED IN DEED BOOK 336 AT PAGE 209. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit often percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's Memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwwsales.com. VA-365019-1.

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Increased RSVP Grant Funds Awarded to P&HCC

Patrick & Henry Community College has been awarded the Road to Success in Virginia Program (RSVP) grant in Virginia Community College System's (VCCS) annual renewal process. The program incorporates in-demand, industry recognized, credential based training, work readiness development, and coaching to assist students with securing self-sufficient employment. The grant award for 2023-2024 was increased approximately \$20,000 from the 2022-2023 year to \$158,375.77, which will allow the college to serve even more students in its adult workforce preparatory programming.

To be eligible for RSVP grant support, a student must meet 200% of the poverty level and have a child 19 or younger. He/she must complete both Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) and National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) assessments and participate in Moral Reconation Therapy Training to support the development of healthier lifestyle habits so they can simultaneously balance work, school and family at once. Students also complete digital literacy acclimation prior to beginning coursework.

Partners enable students in the



P&HCC's Director of Workforce Development Shelira Morrison speaks with students at RSVP orientation for Certified Clinical Medical Assistant students.

program to participate in grant opportunities and additional supportive services they may also have available in addition to the RSVP grant support. P&HCC's RSVP instructors collaborate with Henry County Public Schools' adult education staff at Center for Community Learning to provide information for preparatory courses so that students are equipped and ready when they enter the program of interest.

"One of the things I love about this grant is that it gives us the

opportunity to really embrace our relationship with our partners. Robbie Knight with West Piedmont Workforce Investment Board provides experiential learning and career opportunities for our students and Martha Bowman with VA Career Works provides additional supportive services and refers students interested in skilled trades, phlebotomy, Nurse Aide, and Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA) programs. The collaboration with community partners is essential to enhancing

students' success," said Shelira Morrison, P&HCC's Director of Workforce Development.

Program participants attend an annual orientation to gain a clear understanding of what to expect from courses and the supports available to them as they complete their courses of study. Workforce team members recently celebrated the success of a CCMA student who successfully completed the course but did not successfully achieve the credential. Following additional advising sessions and an additional class, the student was able to earn the credential and secured a position making \$19 per hour – one of the highest salaries for CCMA program completers.

"Our program students have access to supportive services that make a difference. Gas cards, grocery support, and car repair are just some of the ways we are able to assist them as their studies. It is astounding the level of support we are able to provide our students. Whatever the challenge is, we are prepared to take a look at the need on a case by case basis and provide assistance to address the barriers students experience so that we can make sure students who get in to a program stay in," said Morrison.

LEGAL

RFP 2023 MNT 010

The Patrick County School Board is accepting competitive sealed proposals from licensed contractors for excavation work to build and pave five (5) new tennis courts at Patrick County High School, 215 Cougar Lane, Stuart, VA 24171. A general meeting for all interested contractors will be held on Wednesday, August 23, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Patrick County High School Tennis Court site. Proposals will be accepted until 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 31, 2023. RFP packets will be available at the Maintenance Department, 117 Via Avenue, Unit #1, Stuart, VA 24171. For further information, call Chad Haynes, Facilities Supervisor at 276-694-6984.

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VDOT

Virginia Department of Transportation
ADVERTISEMENT FOR SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT SERVICES WITH OPERATOR SIGNUP

The Virginia Department of Transportation invites heavy equipment owners to sign up for the rental of their equipment with operators for SNOW & ICE REMOVAL purposes in Martinsville Residency which includes the counties of Henry, Patrick and Carroll during the winter of 2023-2024. Price per hour shall include operators, fuel, tire chains, supplies and required insurance. VDOT will need dump trucks, pickups with plows, motorgraders, backhoes, dozers, track loaders, tractors, rubber tire loaders and farm tractors. All equipment shall be equipped for night work and be in good mechanical condition to ensure a safe and dependable 24/7 operation. VDOT reserves the right to determine acceptability of equipment size and condition for the task. Contractors submitting prices meeting the requirements of the Agreement may be contracted with and may be eligible to receive a mobilization payment and a minimum guaranteed payment for the season.

Contractors must submit their application on the electronic M7B bidding site at <https://plov4va.com/>. All new and returning Contractors must be active in the Virginia eProcurement Portal (eVA) in order to do business with the Commonwealth of Virginia (<https://eva.virginia.gov>).

Applications received by 7:00 PM on Monday October 2, 2023 may be eligible for a mobilization bonus. See the EVA posting for additional information, including contract requirements.

Questions can be directed to the Martinsville Residency from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday - Friday. Phone: 276-629-2582

Email: SalemDistrictSnow@vdot.virginia.gov
EEO/AA Employer

LEGAL

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

6429 Jeb Stuart Highway, Meadows of Dan, VA 24120
Tax Map No. 4514.00-159B
PATRICK COUNTY, VA

In execution of a credit line deed of trust dated May 31, 2019 (the "Deed of Trust"), recorded in the Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Patrick, Virginia, as Instrument No. 190000836, the undersigned substitute Trustees, any or all of whom may act, will offer for sale at the front steps of the Patrick County Courthouse, 101 W. Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, Virginia 24171, on August 26, 2023, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., property located at or near 6429 Jeb Stuart Highway, Meadows of Dan, Virginia, which property is more particularly described as follows:

All of that certain tract or parcel of land, together with the improvements thereon and appurtenances thereunto belonging, lying and being in Blue Ridge Magisterial District of Patrick County, Virginia, being more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

BEGINNING at an iron stake near a power pole in the northern edge of the right of way of U. S. Route 58; thence leaving said edge of the right of way and with the boundary to lands previously conveyed to Phyllis T. Phillips approximately 240 feet in a northerly direction to a point in a barbed wire fence; thence with said fence in an easterly direction approximately 276 feet to an iron stake at the edge of a driveway; thence leaving said fence and with said edge of the driveway approximately 240 feet in a southerly direction to a point in said northern edge of said U. S. Highway 58 right of way; thence leaving said edge of the driveway and with said right of way in a westerly direction approximately 276 feet to the point of BEGINNING, containing 1.52 acres by estimation.

This sale is subject to all liens, easements, restrictions, conditions, and reservations of record affecting the title to the property hereinabove described, to the extent any of them have priority over the lien of the Deed of Trust.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE:

1. AUCTION: Substitute Trustee has employed The Counts Realty & Auction Group ("Auction Company"). The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale outlining additional terms of sale and settlement that will be available for review prior to the announcement of sale. Settlement within thirty (30) days of sale.
2. DEPOSIT: A bidder's deposit of \$5,000.00 per tract in certified funds (cash, cashier's or certified check made payable to Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC) required.
3. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Announcements made on day of sale take precedence over all prior communications, both verbal and written, concerning the sale or the property.
4. BUYER'S PREMIUM: A 10% buyer's premium will be in effect on day of sale that is added to the high bid amount to determine the contract sales price.
5. "AS-IS", "WHERE-IS": The property is being sold "AS-IS", "WHERE-IS". Potential buyers must perform such independent investigations with respect to the property as they deem necessary.
6. ADVERTISEMENTS: All information provided by Auction Company and Substitute Trustee is deemed reliable but is not warranted. Information contained in the brochure and any advertisements by Auction Company are subject to verification by all parties relying on it. No liability for its accuracy, error or omission is assumed by Auction Company or Substitute Trustee.
7. REPRESENTATION: Auction Company and its representatives represent the party foreclosing on the property.
8. BID INCREMENTS: Auction Company reserves the right to set bid increments and to establish the bid sequences for the order of the sale and/or to change both. Lienholders reserve the right to bid at the sale.
9. LINES ON PHOTOGRAPHS: Any property lines drawn on the photographs in the marketing materials are not exact. Refer to the title documents found in the land records for the actual property lines.

Peter M. Pearl, Bryson J. Hunter, and
Brian H. Richardson, Substitute Trustees

For Information Contact:
Peter M. Pearl, Esquire
ppearl@spilmanlaw.com
Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC
P.O. Box 90
Roanoke, Virginia 24002
540-512-1800 Telephone

Application Period for the 2023 Virginia Beehive Distribution Program Begins on August 28

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) will accept applications for the 2023 Beehive Distribution Program from August 28 through September 12. The program provides free equipment for assembling new beehives to Virginia residents. Qualified applicants are selected at random from qualifying applications received during the application period.

"In Virginia, honeybees are essential pollinators for the fruits and vegetables consumed by people and wildlife," said Keith Tignor, State

Apiarist. "The Beehive Distribution Program helps counteract dramatic honey bee losses in the state over the past several decades by assisting individuals in establishing new hives."

Individuals who are Virginia residents, and 18 years of age or older at the time an application is submitted, are eligible to receive beehive units. Entities such as businesses, non-profit organizations, and government agencies are not eligible to receive beehive units. Multiple individuals with the same mailing and/or physical address (household) may apply to the program; however, distribution of beehive units will be limited

to no more than three beehive units per household in the same fiscal year, July 1 to June 30.

Recipients of beehive units must assemble the equipment and occupy it with a colony of honey bees within one year of receiving the equipment. VDACS does not provide honey bees or equipment for managing the hives, such as personal safety equipment or honey processing equipment.

To learn more about the Beehive Distribution Program or to submit an application beginning August 28, please visit the Beehive Distribution Program website.

For more information, contact the VDACS Office of

Plant Industry Services at (804) 786-3515 or vabees@vdacs.virginia.gov.

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League starts September 8 - 10:00 am

~TUESDAY SANCTION LEAGUE~
Meeting - August 29 7:00pm
League starts September 12 - 7:00 pm

~WEDNESDAY NO-TAP LEAGUE~
Meeting September 27 - 7:00pm
League starts October 4 - 7:00 pm

Meeting night - Bowl 2 Free games

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276-694-3294

Brightspeed

(cont. from page 1)

don't bury it deep enough. So, when the machine hits a rock, it goes up and so some portions of the line are only a half inch deep, and some portions of the line are lower," she said.

Johnny Motley, of Elastic Plant Road in the Dry Pond area, said the day after he contacted Strader a work crew responded and fixed all of his issues except those he is having with his caller ID.

"They came out and my neighbor said they were out there most of the day with three or four trucks. They asked if they could park in her driveway," Motley said. "They got the phone fixed, but my caller ID still isn't working. It hasn't worked since early August."

Motley said the active response and the work to fix his issues make him a little more confident

in the company.

At an interview following the supervisors' meeting, Strader said he had a list of about 25 names to contact about service issues.

"We've knocked out over half so far," he said.

Strader also took the names and contact information of residents who attended the supervisors' meeting to address their issues.

He added that the company realized the extent of the issues as soon as it took over from CenturyLink and Lumen Technologies in October.

"It's just been neglected. Brightspeed wants to put the money into infrastructure and get things done. It can't happen overnight, but we know there's a problem," he said.

Strader said some of the older switches need to be replaced to allow customers to have faster

bandwidth.

"That's what we're looking at. We can't overnight, obviously, but we're trying to get those switches taken care of, get them upgraded, and get some replaced," he said. "We are working, and we are definitely being retroactive in what we're doing to bring new switches and developments in fiber."

To help address the issues, Strader said the company hired about six new employees who are currently in training.

The former owner "was laying off and basically didn't have the help," but Brightspeed has "hired and spent the money to get new employees," he said.

Those with Brightspeed issues can email Strader at scott.strader@brightspeed.com.

Skyline

(cont. from page 1)

day. Because I came in that day thinking 'how do we gracefully tell these people that this can't work,' and I left thinking, 'okay, can we really find a way to say yes,'" he said.

Edwards said while it was that strong community support that got Skyline here, it will also take that strong community support to keep it here.

"I told you on like the second or third time that we met that we would not have closed a branch the size of a branch that BB&T (later Truist) had here. It was roughly \$30 million in deposits," he said.

If Skyline is there two years from now and has a third of that in deposits, then it'll be in the same position and have to make the same tough decision, Edwards said.

"I certainly don't believe that's going to be the case. I think the support from this community is tremendous and we're very excited to be here and looking forward to being a part of this community for many years to come," he said.

Branch Manager Laurie Wade said she feels like she's coming back home. She added that Meadows of Dan is her home. Wade served as

the Truist branch manager until that bank closed in March.

"Leaving Truist was a hard decision after 15 years, but I think it's one of the best decisions I've ever made was coming to Skyline and coming back to Meadows of Dan and my community here," she said.

Wade said she enjoyed seeing clients again, visiting them, and opening accounts for them.

"We just look forward to the ones that haven't made it out yet, and coming out to visit with you," she said.



The lobby area and counter in the Meadows of Dan branch of Skyline National Bank.



Skyline Bank President and CEO Blake Edwards said the strong community support prompted Skyline National Bank to open a branch in Meadows of Dan.

Appliance Store

(cont. from page 1)

that kind of drove us," he said.

Zook said the community has been accepting and excited about the new business.

"A lot of people are excited about us being here since there's nothing really in the area. They either have to go to Stuart, Hillsville, Galax, or Floyd, I mean there's really nothing in here like this. We felt like there's a big demand

for something like this in our area," he said.

While he plans to hold a grand opening sometime in October, Zook said the Meadows of Dan Folk Fair on Saturday prompted him to open sooner.

Fair goers planned to use "a lot of our parking area, so we thought we should be open to at least get the people in here to see what we

have," he said. "Some of the shelves and some of the products are not here" yet because of that.

Business hours are Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturdays 7:30-11:30 a.m. Frontier Farm will be closed on Sundays.

For more information, call Zook at (276) 952-2800.



Frontier Farm and Home Center, LLC, sells a variety of general hardware equipment and tools, Frontier Farm also sells building supplies, garden tools, lumber, feed, outdoor wooden seating, and other home needs.



Storage buildings are sold and built on-site.

Initial filings for unemployment on upswing

The number of initial claims for unemployment insurance climbed higher in the latest filing week to 3,460 and sixteen percent higher than the comparable week in 2022, according to data from the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC).

For the filing week ending August 12, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 3,460, which was an increase of 940 claimants from the

previous week. Continued weeks claimed totaled 13,710, which was 32 claims higher than the previous week and an increase of 9.7% from the 12,499 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 (1,970), administrative and support and waste management (1,874), health care and social assistance (1,308),

manufacturing (1,161), and accommodation and food services (1,002). 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 August 12, the advance U.S. figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 239,000, a decrease of 11,000 from the previous week's revised level.

The previous week's level was revised up by 2,000 from 248,000 to 250,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs[1], unadjusted, totaled 212,850 in the week ending August 12, a decrease of 15,067 (or -6.6 percent) from the previous week. There were 187,391 initial claims in the comparable week in 2022. Looking at preliminary data, most U.S. states reported decreases on a seasonally unadjusted basis. California's preliminary weekly change (-3,519) was the largest decrease. Texas's preliminary weekly change (-1,768) was the second largest decrease. Pennsylvania's preliminary weekly change (-1,254) was the third largest decrease. Michigan's preliminary weekly change (-1,102) was the fourth largest decrease. Virginia's preliminary weekly change (+1,055) was the largest increase.

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Dellenback Hill's Weekend Excursions



Flags flew in the breezes at Laurel Hill Park on Sunday, Aug 20. Also, a new sign with Virginia's Mountain Laurel, is pictured. Mountain Laurel was a favorite of Major General Stuart's home place. Blooming flowers in Elizabeth's Garden, named for Stuart's Mother, attracted some pollinators. (Enjoy the photos shared by Mary Dellenback Hill. The pictures were taken during Hill's weekend travels.)

Leviner named Mother of the Year



Mrs. Terri Leviner was selected the Patrick Springs Ruritan Club's 2023 Mother of the Year.

The Patrick Springs Ruritan Club presented Mrs. Terri Leviner with flowers and a plaque as their 2023 Mother of the Year.

Mrs. Julie Walters Steele, a member of the Patrick Springs Ruritan Club, said "It has been an honor to work with Terri Leviner at the Reynolds Homestead for the past 12 years. She is one of the smartest and hardest working women I know. Not only does she work hard at the Reynolds Homestead, but she also makes even more effort nurturing her family.

"During our years working together, I've seen the abundant love that Terri has for her extended family, and the joy she has spending time with them. Not only is she a mother to her sons, Dustin and Tommy and stepsons, Josh

and Daniel and their families, she also is a mother figure to her nieces and nephews. Terri's face glows bright when she talks about her grandchildren and the staff at the Reynolds Homestead always enjoys their visits with 'Nannie.'

"Terri is also the mother hen of the Reynolds Homestead and always keeps the rest of the 'chicks' in line. Just as she does for her family, you will find Terri cleaning and cooking for the Homestead. She oversees finances at the Homestead and holds us all accountable to make sure we don't outspend the budget. Terri's warmth, love and laughter are staples of life at the Reynolds Homestead. She is the glue that holds the Reynolds Homestead together," Steele wrote.

Forestry department rolls out grant program

The Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) has approximately \$500,000 available in grant funding through the end of 2023 for the Virginia Trees for Clean Water (VTCW) Grant Program. Supported by the Virginia Water Quality Improvement Fund, the VTCW Grant Program is designed to improve water quality across Virginia by encouraging tree-planting efforts where they are needed most and raise awareness of their benefits.

This cycle of grant funds will be used for projects that will be completed by the end of the year (Dec. 31). Grants may be awarded to civic groups, communities, local governments, tribal organizations, non-profit organizations, neighborhood associations, public educational institutions, and state agencies.

To apply, a proposal must be submitted to DOF's Forestry Grants System Access Portal, the agency's new online grant management system. Proposals are processed on a rolling basis but must be submitted at least 30 days before the project begins.

The recommended funding range for proposals is between \$1,000 and \$50,000 per project. Project match is required for all proposals, but in-kind and volunteer time is acceptable. Funds are distributed on a reimburse-

ment basis. Proposals must demonstrate the merit of the project and include:

- *A letter of recommendation from your local DOF forester (Find yours here)
- *A detailed, long-term tree maintenance plan
- *Community outreach and engagement components
- *Applicants applying for a state-funded award must have a federal unique entity identifier (UEI)

"This program funds tree-planting activities of all types and last year added nearly 50,000 trees to Virginia's tree canopy," said DOF Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager Lara Johnson. "We're fortunate to have this opportunity to invest in ecosystem services, which will in turn boost air and water quality and reduce the impacts of urban heat islands."

The VTCW Grant Program also aims to help Virginia work towards its Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (commonly called WIP III) goals, a comprehensive roadmap for improving Chesapeake Bay watersheds at federal, state and local levels.

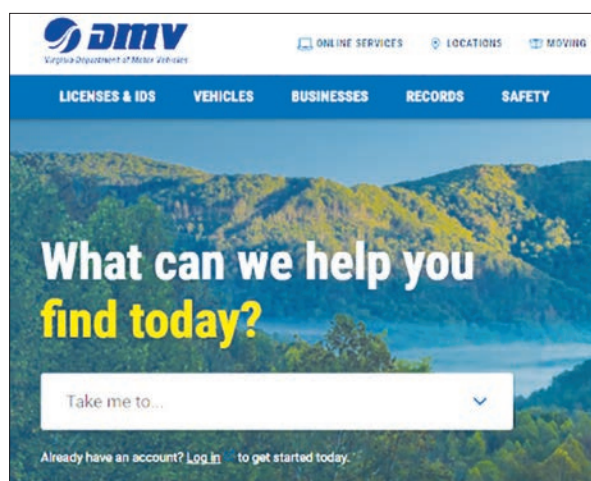
For more information about the VTCW Grant Program, including the RFP, application and budget worksheet, visit DOF's website.

New DMV website purports to enhance customer experience

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has unveiled a new and enhanced website, at dmv.virginia.gov. The new site helps customers easily find important information online, enabling them to expedite their visit or avoid a visit altogether.

"This launch is an integral part of an ongoing effort to better serve Virginians, no matter where they interact with DMV," said DMV Commissioner Gerald Lackey. "Our website receives more than 13 million visits each year. Being able to find the information you need quickly and easily puts time back into your day so you can focus on the things that matter most."

The new site offers many time-saving features, including clear, concise content that's easy to follow and anticipates user questions. Customers can still conduct more than 50 services online, and, in just a few clicks, renew



their license and registration, replace IDs and titles, update personal or vehicle information, and much more.

The site refresh also prioritizes inclusive web design. Fully compliant with the latest accessibility standards and restructured for improved navigation and use, the new platform creates a better web browsing experience for everyone.

Highlights of the new website include:

- *Site structure that guides users to solutions and answers questions along the way
- *Modern design that enhances user experience and maximizes readability
- *50+ services customers can complete wherever, whenever

"We encourage Virginians to take a fresh look at the new dmv.virginia.gov to see how it can enhance your DMV service," Commissioner Lackey said. "Whether you conduct your business online or find the information you need at one of our offices, we hope your experience will be convenient, efficient and enjoyable."

Class of 1961 reunites



The Stuart High School Class of 1961 recently held a reunion. Pictured, (left to right, front row) are Mary Elizabeth Hall Avery, Everne DeHart Walker, Iva Jean Williams Cox, Linda Edwards Smith, Sally Clark Smith, Sue Williams Griffith; (left to right, back row) is Jack Williams, Sandy Rodgers, Richard Woods, Anne Beasley Madonia, "Dena" Gregory Cockram, "Butch" Mitchell, Maynard Joyce, Elsie Scott Rorrer, Charlie Martin Jr., Bruce Dollarhite, Johnny Boles. Julia Kodenski Catlette is not pictured.

Meetings

Tuesday, Aug. 22

The Patrick County Department of Social Services Board will meet at 6 p.m. in the second-floor conference room of the Patrick County Administration Building. For more information, call (276) 693-2084.

Wednesday, Aug. 30

The Economic Development Authority of Patrick County will meet at 7 p.m. in the Patrick County Administration Building.

Monday, Sept. 11

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

Thursday, Sept. 14

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

Wednesday, Sept. 20

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

Events

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.

Wayside Community Church will hold a Friday Night Music & Fellowship starting at 6:30 p.m. Music by The Gregory Family from Lynchburg, Virginia with Guest Speaker Orville Gregory. Light meal and refreshments will be served after the service. Wayside Community Church is located at 3520 Wayside Road, Stuart.

Sunday, Aug. 27

Wayside Community Church will have its annual Homecoming and Old-Fashioned Day, 3520 Wayside Road, Stuart. Special singing guest is Kelly Ratcliff. Come dressed in your old-fashioned clothes. The Worship service starts at 11 a.m., and there will be a meal after.

Friday, Sept. 1 – Saturday, Sept. 2

Creasey Chapel will hold a yard sale benefiting the church. There will be household furniture, home accessories, clothing, toys, and something for everyone.

Friday, Sept. 1

The Woolwine Methodist food truck will be at the Woolwine VFD Friday from 3-4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 9

Fairy Stone State Park will hold a Corn Squeezins' play at the Park Amphitheater at 8 p.m.

Fairy Stone State Park will hold a FUN With Smokey Bear event at 2:30 p.m. at Shelter 4.

Sunday, Sept. 10

The 47th Hughes Family Reunion will be held on September 10th at the Hughes Family Shelter on Trot Valley Road. Covered dish lunch will be served at 1 p.m. following a brief meeting. Paper products and drinks will be provided. For more information call Mary H. Martin at (276) 692-5507.

Ongoing

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

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

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

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

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

The 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.

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.

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

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

VADOC Urges Public to Report Information as Search Continues

The Virginia Department of Corrections is urging the public to report any information related to escaped inmate Naseem Isaiyah Roulack, 21, also known as Lil Nas, as a multi-agency search continues.



The U.S. Marshals Service is offering a cash reward of \$5,000 for information that leads to the apprehension of Roulack. The U.S. Marshals Service can be contacted at 1-877-WANTED2, or tips can be submitted via the USMS Tips app.

Anyone with information is urged to contact VADOC's fugitive line at 1-877-896-5764 and Virginia State Police by dialing #77 or 911.

The Virginia Department of Corrections, Virginia State Police and Henrico County Police Division continue their search efforts to find Roulack, an inmate from Greensville Correctional Center.

Roulack is described as a black man, who is 5'8 inches tall, weighs 225 pounds and has brown eyes. Roulack has four identified tattoos, including one on his chest that reads "Marie," one on his left arm that reads "RIP Ish", one on his right cheek that reads "Cut Throat" and one on his right arm that reads "Faith Is Seeing Light With Your Heart When All Your Eyes See Is Darkness."

VADOC security staff reported that Roulack escaped from the supervision of two VADOC security officers at Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital at approximately 5:50 a.m. Saturday, August 12.

Roulack was last seen leaving a bathroom in the hospital wearing a white gown, white socks and was wearing no shoes. He is now believed to be wearing jeans, a black hat with "Richmond" on it and a gray shirt.

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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DRBA to paddle on Beaver Creek Reservoir

The Dan River basin Association's (DRBA's) First Saturday Paddle is set for 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sept. 2. The 4.0 mile paddle on the Beaver Creek Reservoir, in Martinsville. Participants will meet at the boat launch to off-load gear and sign waivers. This paddle is suitable for all skill levels. Outings and meetings of the Dan River Basin Association are open to the public without charge. Normal fees required at the reservoir have been waived for this DRBA outing. Usually there is a \$5 per day fee or a \$15 season pass.

Along the route, participants will have an opportunity to see a pristine lake with wooded shoreline, Great Blue Herons, ducks, turtles, soaring hawks and a variety of water's edge plants and wildflowers.

Outing coordinator, Ellen Jesse, said, "I find this paddle peaceful, beautiful and especially convenient for me since I live nearby!"

The lake was built in the 1950's, and since it is the main source of

drinking water for the city, no swimming is allowed.

Participants may supply their own boat, paddles, and life jackets. There are also canoes and kayaks (including paddles and life jackets) available to rent for \$10 per day on a first come first served basis from the City of Martinsville at the boat launch. Participants should also supply their own water and lunch. There is a porta-potty at the boat launch and a public restroom at the picnic shelter.

Please wear water-shedding, artificial fabric or wool (not cotton, and certainly not blue jeans); and provide a back-up change of clothing. All participants will be required to sign a waiver and wear a life jacket.

For more information, contact the outings coordinator Ellen Jesse at ejessee105@gmail.com.

If for any reason the event needs to be cancelled, visit www.danriver.org by close of business, Friday, September 1 to determine whether the outing will be held.



DRBA's First Saturday Paddle will be held Sept. 2 on the Beaver Creek Reservoir, in Martinsville. (Photo courtesy of Dan River Basin Association)

Prioritize summer travel safety ahead of Labor Day weekend

Twelve people lost their lives in fatal traffic crashes in Virginia throughout 2022's four-day Labor Day holiday weekend, according to Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles crash data. Those 12 included juveniles, pedestrians and several not wearing seat belts.

"Twelve families lost loved ones," said Col. Gary T. Settle, Virginia State Police superintendent. "Some of those tragically lost were young people with a full life ahead of them, including children who were not wearing a seat belt or safely secured in a child safety restraint. I implore all Virginians to wear their seat belts and require all those riding with you to do the same."

Most fatal crashes during the 2022 holiday weekend occurred around Portsmouth and Roanoke. In total, state police investigated 772 traffic crashes. They also stopped 4,094 speeders and 1,807 reckless drivers; arrested 87 people for impaired driving; cited 435 seat belt violations; and assisted 818 stranded motorists.

"As you venture out during this busy travel weekend, keep Virginia's newly updated 'Move Over' law in mind that went into effect July 1," noted David Tenenbaum, senior actuarial manager at Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. The company is a DRIVE SMART Virginia partner.

The previous "Move Over" law required motorists to make space for flashing red or blue emergency lights. As of July 1, drivers also must change lanes when possible or slow down for any vehicle on the roadside flashing amber or hazard lights. This includes utility, tow and roadside assistance trucks.

"In this last push of the busy summer travel season, keep an eye out for more disabled vehicles with their hazard lights on at the side of the road," Tenenbaum continued.

The Virginia Department of Transportation offers these tips for motorists to help make holiday travel safer for all:

- *If you plan to drink, have a designated driver.
- *Put the phone down! It's unlawful in Virginia to hold a communication device while driving.
- *Don't drive distracted, and speak up if someone else is doing so.
- *Buckle up, and ensure children and car seats are secured.
- *Maintain a safe distance from the vehicle in front of you.
- *Use your signals for lane changes and turns.
- *Don't leave children, elderly people or pets in parked cars for any amount of time; cars can heat dangerously fast on hot days.

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