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

Claims at forum not reported



Interim Circuit Court Clerk Morgan Boothe presented a departmental update at the Oct. 16 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Staff Reports
Last week, Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith said he found no indication that anyone was asked to leave the Circuit Court Clerk's Office. "I have received no report from any court security deputy with any knowledge of anyone being asked to leave the clerk's office," he said.

Smith was asked to investigate claims made by Erica Cipko Wade that two people were asked "to leave the clerk's office and not come back. That is unacceptable," she said at the October 10 Patrick County Young Professionals (PCYP) Candidate Forum. Wade and Nancy Turner Belcher



Several residents attended the Patrick County Board of Supervisors meeting.

are challenging interim Circuit Court Clerk Morgan Boothe in the November election. *The Enterprise* tried to obtain on the record information related to the claims, but was unable to do so. Boothe told the Patrick County Board of Supervisors at its October 16 meeting that she asked Smith

to look into the allegations because neither "the deputy clerks nor I know anything about this." The claims, Boothe said, represent "a potential violation of the Code (law)," which requires all public facilities to ensure that every individual is entitled to full and equal (See Claims p. 3)

Medical care at center of DeLoach's reelection bid

By Taylor Boyd
The biggest challenge facing the county is the lack of 24-hour medical care, according to Clyde DeLoach, who is seeking his second term to the Blue Ridge District on the Patrick County Board of Supervisors. DeLoach, 74, will face challenger Steve Marshall in the race. "Ideally, it would be great if Foresight follows through," DeLoach said of the company which purchased the hospital property and announced plans to reopen it. "We have not received information that they're not," DeLoach said, but he's working on a backup plan in case the agreement falls through. It's in the "very, very preliminary stages," he said, "but I am talking to other people that I've met through one of the courses I take, and they're considering" the possibility. "They're going to get back with me." Since being on the board, DeLoach said he's helped get the county's budget in shape. "I think that's really important. You know, going from 2019 where they basically were telling us, 'the state's going to be coming in here if



Clyde DeLoach

you don't get straight' then we balanced the budget and we've kept it balanced and we've worked hard," he said. He also believes the board has accomplished the day-to-day things including working well together as a board unlike some previous boards that had members shouting and cursing at one another. DeLoach said he would resist any kind of tax increase. "I can't make promises, but I can promise we'll work as hard as we can not to raise taxes," and his re- (See DeLoach p.3)

Foster care, social services among Marshall's interests

By Taylor Boyd
One of the most important challenges facing the county is its Department of Social Services not having enough people to run the foster care system, according to Steve Marshall, who is challenging incumbent Clyde DeLoach for the Blue Ridge District seat on the Patrick County Board of Supervisors. "It's funding for that type of thing," said Marshall, 61. "The real problem with funding I think is our tax assessment." Noting that a study, called an Evaluation Property Tax Regressivity, included Patrick County among several counties. "According to this study, we are the 20th most in having a regressive tax assessment out of the 125 Virginia counties that were studied," he said, and explained a regressive tax assessment is a system in which less expensive houses are systematically assessed at higher sales ratios than more expensive options. "In other words, in general as your income goes down, your tax ration goes up. So, you're actually paying a percentage higher than what you should be paying for fair market



Steve Marshall

value. While when you're wealthy, you're assessed at something below your fair market value," he said. In Patrick County, he said 67 percent of the lowest valued homes are over assessed. "In 2020 this assessment was being done, being put together," Marshall said. "The average property in the bottom bracket was sold for \$56,489, and it had a tax bill of \$366.03. If the property was taxed with an average rate of all of the properties, its fair tax bill would have been \$327.85." (See Marshall p. 3)

Seeking the greater good is Wood's goal

By Taylor Boyd
Attracting more businesses and industries that offer benefits is the biggest challenge Patrick County is facing, according to Jonathan Wood, who is seeking the Peters Creek District seat on the Patrick County Board of Supervisors. Lisa Mickles is also seeking the post. Additional job opportunities are needed because "right now, our students are graduating from high school, they go to technical schools, they go to colleges, and they don't have a lot of opportunities when they come back here," said Wood, 40. Wood said the board and the county administrator need to be actively looking for good paying jobs that would provide benefits to employees. He thinks residents are in peril when it comes to medical care. "Basically, if you get hurt in Patrick County, and it's not between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, you have to travel out of the county," he said. "That's one of the harder ones to focus on, but once again, I think the Board of Supervisors and the county administrator need to be looking for medical professionals to come to our county." Wood said a lot of it is looking



Jonathan Wood

at the county's budget and seeing where there's unnecessary spending. A firm believer in giving people what they need to be successful, but not giving them anything they don't need to be successful, Wood said the county needs to stick with its budget "and see whether there's wasteful spending. Because if you look at it, you do see a few places that we could cut back some, especially at the top." A supporter of involvement in elected office, Wood said he has some issues with how people have (See Wood p. B3)

Funding for public safety is Mickles priority

By Taylor Boyd
A lack of funding for Emergency Management Services (EMS) and volunteer fire services is the biggest challenge facing the county, according to Lisa Mickles (pronounced Michaels), who is seeking the Peters Creek District seat on the Patrick County Board of Supervisors. Jonathan Wood also is seeking the post in the November election. "We don't have a local hospital, and for them to transport it's, what, 35-40 minutes, and not enough funding going to our fire and EMS that everybody in the county relies on," said Mickles, 48. For instance, if she needed help at 3 a.m. because her house was on fire, Mickles said she's under the assumption that a fire department is coming and money's not an issue. But it is, and to help address this challenge, Mickles believes the board needs to try to find room in the county's budget to provide more money for fire and EMS. "Like right now, just for an example, I know we don't require business licenses here in Patrick County. That would be an area of revenue that we could bring in" if licensing was required, she said. A supporter of public involvement in local office, Mickles said she's already trying to educate herself on the Freedom of Information Act



Lisa Mickles

(FOIA) to better understand the various statutes. "I'm already trying to educate myself on that. Lots of people from the county have expressed to me they feel there's more of a need for transparency, and I support that 110 percent," she said, adding transparency is important because so many things become issues due to misunderstandings or information not relayed to the public. "Or if it is, maybe not in the timely fashion that it needs to," she said. "Because when that's not done people start making assumptions about what's going to happen, what (See Mickles p. B3)

Community Leaders event slated for November

The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce and Reynolds Homestead are hosting this year's Lunch with Our Community Leaders event on November 15, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hooker Building, located at 420 Woodland Drive in Stuart. Last year's Breakfast with Our Community Leaders was a huge success, and organizers are looking forward to another great informational session.

This year, the event is a luncheon with a pasta bar. Food allergy alternatives will be offered, prepared and served by the Patrick County Hospitality Class. The class has been helping with the planning of the event as well.

Confirmed speakers are Beth

Simms, new County Administrator; Patrick Cooper, County EDA Director; James Houchins, County Tourism Director; Lisa-Price Hughes, Virginia Department of Transportation; Chad Sutton, Branch Civil; Rajiv Malhotra, General Manager at Primland; Angie Brown, Patrick & Henry Community College and Patrick County Education Foundation; Bryce Simmons, Stuart Town Manager; Trey Cox, PCPS CTE Director, and representatives from the West Piedmont Planning District. Other speakers will be added once confirmed.

Tickets for the event are available online at the chamber's website, www.patrickchamber.com.

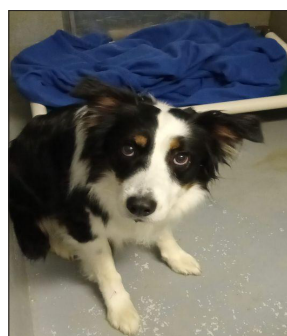
Holiday closings set for Transfer Station, county offices

The Patrick County Transfer Station will be open Tuesday, November 7. The Transfer Station will be closed Friday, November

10, and Saturday, November 11. County offices will be closed November 7 and November 10.

The Transfer Station is following the 2023 county holiday schedule except it will be open on Election Day, November 7, but take a day off on the following Saturday since Friday, Nov. 10 is also a holiday.

Pets of the Week



This handsome gentleman, a Border Collie, was found on Russell Creek Road, and is wearing a collar. We're hoping someone is missing him.

This bully-type youngster was found on Wayside Road, in the area of the STEP offices. She is wearing a collar, and someone is bound to be looking for her.

Call the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter (PCPAS) at (276) 694-6259, or 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 (PAWS) offers a spay/neuter program for dogs. Call (276) 694-2378 and leave a message. Someone will call you back.

VISIT US ONLINE AT
WWW.ENTERPRISE.NET

STUART SPOOKTACULAR

TUESDAY OCTOBER 31, 2023 5:30pm - 8:00pm

ON MAIN STREET IN STUART

Presented by Patrick County Young Professionals in partnership with



Enjoy a spooky and safe event for the whole family!

FEATURING

TRICK-OR-TREAT
PHOTO OP • TABLE DECORATION CONTEST
IMAGINE CIRCUS • JACK O'LANTERN DISPLAY
LLAMAS IN COSTUME • BOUNCY HOUSES
FOOD TRUCKS & MORE!

For more info and sign up to hand out treats visit
www.patrickchamber.com

PUT ME IN PATRICK COUNTY, THIS "ROOKIE" IS READY...

Morgan Boothe claimed that anyone new at the Clerk's Office would be the "rookie" having zero training in her ad last week in The Enterprise.

Erica Cipko Wade is hardly the "rookie." Erica C. Wade is no stranger to the legal field, having extensive experience in various areas, including every type of land record and filing, a wide range of civil filings, almost all probate matters, and the majority of criminal cases. With this comprehensive background, Erica is well-equipped to step into the Clerk's Office on day one, ready to grasp the procedures and effectively serve the citizens.

Let's consider the numbers... Morgan has 6 years of experience in the Clerk's office, and this makes up her time in the professional work world. Erica C. Wade has more than double that working with the Clerk's Office, in the legal field working with professionals from attorneys, judges, law enforcement officers, and accountants, all while serving citizens through public service after completing a Bachelor's Degree. This makes Erica's professional work world time over 15 years. Maturity, accurate ability, and professionalism count.

Cast your vote for Erica C. Wade, a candidate with a demonstrated record of leadership and unwavering dedication to the citizens of Patrick County.



Erica C. Wade and husband, Robbie Wade, at Meadows of Dan Pancake Days.

NOVEMBER 7, 2023...
your VOTE matters!

NOVEMBER 7, 2023

Vote

ERICA CIPKO

W★DE
CLERK OF COURT

- Proven Community Leadership
 - EMT & Fire Fighter for 10+ years
 - Town Council Member
 - Patrick County Young Professional
 - Former Patrick County Chamber Director
- 12 plus years of **Legal Experience in ALL legal realms**
 - **Civil, Criminal, Real Estate, Probate, and Bookkeeping**
- Worthy of our citizens' trust
- Dedicated to Patrick County
 - Life-long Patrick County Citizen

"I know what works while serving the public, the judges, and the law enforcement community, and I know what doesn't work. We need to clean up the present situation in our Clerk's Office, and get back to service and responsibility being the top priorities."
E. Wade



WANT TO MARK YOUR BALLOT?

MARK YOUR CALENDAR.

- OCT 27: Last day to request an absentee ballot.
- NOV 4: Last day to vote early, in person.
- NOV 7: Election Day.
Last day to postmark a mail-in ballot.
Last day to drop off your absentee ballot.



Make your voting plan at Vote.Virginia.gov

Claims

(cont. from page 1)

enjoyment of the facility without discrimination or segregation on the grounds of race, color, religion, or national origin.

As a result, "I have reached out to Sheriff Smith," to look into the allegation, "and he will report back with any findings," Boothe said.

She also presented a departmental update to the supervisors – a practice she vows to continue quarterly if given the opportunity.

"Since our office has had quite a few problems the last couple of years, I just wanted to be completely transparent with you and the public," Boothe said, adding the last time she spoke to the board she was accompanied by Smith to discuss the security construction project.

Nearly a year later, a final quote was received and Boothe said "we're very excited to have this finally starting. As you can imagine, we are unknowingly face to face with some dangerous people from time to time, so bullet proof glass and

security safeguards will make the public and the employees feel much safer."

When she was appointed as interim in November 2022, Boothe said she and Circuit Court Judge Marcus Brinks thought it would be a good idea to have members of the circuit team from the Office of Executive Secretary come to the courthouse and perform a management analysis to determine its strengths and weaknesses. According to her calculations, the office has complied with 91 percent of the recommendations provided.

"The first one, there were no written job descriptions for staff that has been completed; no cross-training of staff, we are continuing that every day; it was recommended to utilize training materials on the Office of Executive Secretary's website, we take webinars monthly if not more often," she said.

The office also started rotating the employees working the front

counter until one is hired and trained, implemented a new jury management system, fixed the broken panic alarms with new ones as part of the security upgrade, began autonumbering deeds, cross-trained staff for indexing, and other recommended courses of actions.

Boothe said the office could not have had its successes over the last 11 months without its dedicated staff.

Clayton Kendrick, chairman and of the Mayo River District, said he's glad Boothe did the update.

"I don't think this is something that I can remember getting from the Clerk's office," he said.

In other matters, the board: *Approved the Sept. 11 meeting minutes.

*Approved the bills, claims, and appropriations.

*Heard from Roger Hayden, of the Dan River District, about solar.

*Heard an update on Piedmont Community Services (PCS) from

Assistant Clinical Director of Addiction and Recovery Treatment Services Monica Flora and lead community organizer Tobie Panos.

*Heard committee updates from Patrick County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Director Scottie Cassell.

*Approved allowing the E-911 committee to go ahead with upgrading a tower. The funds are already set aside within the budget.

*Approved allowing the Blue Ridge Volunteer Rescue Squad to purchase loading system with capital improvement funds.

*Heard an update on tourism from Tourism Director James Houchins.

*Approved Clayton Kendrick, chairman and of the Mayo River District, as the voting delegate for the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) annual conference.

*Heard the administrator's report.

*Heard the supervisors' reports.

DeLoach

(cont. from page 1)

cord reflects that. He is hopeful the board can continue to do as it has, and cut costs.

"Mainly it's just probably going to be trying to cut some," he said, adding the board is also constantly looking to bring in more businesses and improve tourism, which he noted is doing a great job of attracting tourists and thus, revenues.

"I think those are the two things we'll look most to is work with the EDA (Economic Development Authority) director to try to get new businesses, encourage the businesses we have, and tourism," he said. "As far as taxes, we'll leave those alone if at all possible."

The school division is being better helped by the state, DeLoach said, and he believes that has helped the board and the county.

DeLoach said he'd like to see more public involvement in local politics, although he understands that it's hard for some people to sit through a meeting that might last for hours.

"I restarted a thing where we have made available applications for people to serve on the different committees, which would be a great idea," he said.

The new county administrator,

Beth Simms, has said she wants to get out and meet people, DeLoach said, and added he would like to restart a regular program – perhaps a question and answer type – that would connect with residents.

He also wants to restart the town hall meetings he was having earlier in his term.

As a Meadows of Dan Ruritan Club member, DeLoach attends monthly meetings to talk to residents there, and tries to talk to as many people as possible in the rest of his district.

DeLoach said he absolutely wants the board to be transparent with the public, but "I think we need to understand that there are some things we can't talk about. One of them is personnel simply because of the sensitive nature of that and the law, but also, if we're looking to purchase something or a company is coming to town a lot of times they'll say, 'don't let that out.'"

Overall, he said the county is excelling with tourism and believes a lot of people will agree the board's done a great job with the budget.

"Keeping the tax raised to one year out of four, and we've cut a lot out of the budget from what was there when we came in," he said. "We're still always looking and looking at ways

that you can become more efficient and thereby save money."

DeLoach believes the board has lacked clear goals and measurable goals - in part because when he and the others came onto the board "there was just so much wrong that it became sort of a take care of the latest fire sort of thing."

He hopes clear planning will help the board to know the goals it needs to work towards – both long and short term.

As the second certified supervisor in Patrick County history, (Roger Hayden was the first), DeLoach said the training was important enough that he paid for most of the course himself.

"I've also made connections throughout the state and the United States. I have connections all over Virginia, and I have taken advantage of calling them or emailing them and saying I need help on this," he said.

He also has the knowledge base of having served on the board for four years.

"I've learned so much in four years, I think whoever came in there, unless they've been on the board four-years themselves, would have to learn it if they're going to be effective. So, I al-

ready have that base of knowledge," he said.

DeLoach believes he also brings a certain knowledge base to the board because of his experience in education, healthcare, and the clergy.

"All those experiences help me to get along with people and help me to know people, and I think that's one of the things we do well. I would hope we would continue to work together as a board," he said.

DeLoach worked as a respiratory therapist for 15 years. He also taught school and currently teaches online at Southern New Hampshire University and Grand Canyon University. He's also served as a Methodist minister for almost 30 years and is currently the minister at Fieldale United Methodist Church and Mount Bethal United Methodist Church.

A graduate of William and Mary, DeLoach received his M.A. in divinity from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary before getting his PhD in church history at Balor University.

DeLoach has been married to his wife for 29 years. He has three children and three grandchildren.

In his free time, he loves to travel, read, watch sports, and be with his wife.

Marshall

(cont. from page 1)

Marshall said this means that homeowners overpaid by \$38.18, or 11.6 percent. The average property in the top bracket sold for \$358,762 and had a tax bill of \$1,935.12.

"If that property had been taxed at the average rate of all other properties, its fair bill would have been \$2,082.19," he said, adding this means those homeowners underpaid by \$147.07, or 7.1 percent below the fair tax value.

To help address this issue, Marshall believes the county needs to start looking at assessors and learn from the mistakes made last time.

He said the International Association of Assessing Offices (IAAO) gave Patrick County a score of 20.34 for

that assessment.

"The highest you're supposed to have is a 15. Ideally it would be a 10. If we could find a company to do our assessment where we could get a 10 score from the IAAO, we would realize at least \$1.5 million more in revenue each year," he said.

Marshall said this would mean the average person's tax bill would go down.

A supporter of public involvement in local offices, Marshall believes the best way to get residents involved is to reach out and invite them to come to meetings.

"Right now, a lot of people that I spoke to when I went around getting my signatures for the ballot, they feel disenfranchised. They said it doesn't matter, nobody's going to listen to them," he said.

Marshall also supports full transparency between the county's government and the public. He thinks the budget should be completely wide open and printed in a readable format.

"People should know exactly what's happening, what and why these decisions are being made, and where the money's going," Marshall said, adding that he believes the county is lacking in leadership.

"Things like social services, again, and foster care, that's institutional decay, and this has been going on, my understanding is, it's been getting critical for three to four years now. You just don't do that in leadership. You just can't ignore things and kick it down the road," he said.

Marshall said the county excels at being a beautiful a place with "some of the nicest people" he's ever met in his life. "It's a wonderful place, geographically and with a sense of community. There's

a wonderful sense of community."

He said residents should vote for him because he pays a lot more attention to detail in expenditures and revenue, and making sure tax dollars are spent effectively and efficiently, and that "there's absolutely no wiggle room before we stick our hands in their pocket. We make sure we respect them and be good stewards of their tax revenue."

Marshall said he held elected as a town councilman and treasurer on the sewage authority in South Toms River, NJ.

"It's right down to the details. I look at everything, and I find where there's waste and where there's room for improvement, and where we can use the money most efficiently," he said.

Marshall has been married to his wife Donna for 24 years. The couple have two children and three grandchildren.

He received a high school education and has taken some college-level ethics courses. He owned Marshall Property Maintenance in New Jersey for 25 years.

In his free time, Marshall enjoys fishing and reading.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am writing in support of Shannon Harrell, as she seeks reelection for the Blue Ridge District on the school board. As a devoted educator, an active member of our community, and a dedicated mother, she embodies the qualities needed in a leader to shape the future of our schools.

Shannon's background as a former Patrick County teacher, and her current role as a Governor's school teacher, showcases her commitment to providing quality education. Her experience has allowed her to understand the challenges and opportunities that our school system faces, and her firsthand knowledge will be invaluable in making informed decisions.

What truly sets Shannon apart is her professionalism, compassion, and intelligence. She genuinely cares about the well-being and academic success of students. Her role as a mother has given her a unique perspective on the needs of our children. She is passionate about creating a nurturing, safe, and enriching educational environment.

Shannon is a humble individual. She is a true servant leader who believes in the power of collaboration and teamwork. Her humility, combined with her passion for service, truly sets her apart. She understands that addressing the complex issues facing our schools requires input and cooperation from a variety of stakeholders, including parents, teachers, administrators, and the broader community. Her ability to work harmoniously with others and foster a spirit of unity is commendable. She values the contributions of custodians, nurses, bus drivers, food service workers, SRO officers, and teaching assistants

Patrick County Citizens,

I am writing to show my support for our Patrick County Clerk's Office and Interim Clerk Morgan Boothe. I understand all candidates have a right to run for this position, and respect that. What I don't understand is how any other candidate besides Morgan Boothe can claim experience for this position. She was appointed by the Judge almost a year ago, which means she has been the Clerk of Court (sought position) for almost a year. How would any other candidate know or have more experience of this position other than Morgan?

I have known Morgan since she was a child, she is humble and takes pride in her character, which should prove itself when you look at how these three campaigns are being ran. I cannot speak on behalf of Morgan, but I truly doubt she will go as low as the other two candidates in these next couple weeks. The Deputy Clerks in the

Pro Overby

If you are a registered voter in Patrick County, I strongly urge you to exercise your right this election season. While I don't, as a rule, share my political views with anyone, I am making an exception this year. Tabitha Overby has my vote because (1) she stepped up to lead the newly formed Stuart Ruritan Club - this demonstrated her willingness to lead in helping our community, (2) she does what she says she will do - this demonstrates a strong work ethic, (3) she is willing to go the extra mile to get things done - this demon-

strates commitment, and (4) most importantly, after having spent quite a bit of time together over the past year, she has remained true to her Patrick County roots - this demonstrates her integrity. Please join me in supporting and voting for the only candidate that has "In-Office" experience in the Commissioner of Revenue's Office in Patrick County - Tabitha Overby.

because she understands that their roles are vital to the success of our schools. She is the ideal advocate for all because she genuinely cares about everyone and recognizes that it takes a village to grow the whole child. Shannon is not only a team player in the realm of education but also a mentor to our youth through her involvement in coaching youth sports. She has coached girls' basketball at Meadows of Dan Elementary for 11 years. This demonstrates her dedication to the holistic development of young minds and her willingness to invest her time and energy for the betterment of our children.

In addition to her involvement in the education field, Shannon is an active and engaged member of her local church. Her proactive attitude in seeking solutions to various issues highlights her ability to think critically and act decisively, qualities that will serve her well in her role on the school board.

I wholeheartedly believe that my sister, Shannon, possesses the qualities, experience, and passion necessary to make a meaningful difference in our school system. Her dedication to the students and the community is unwavering, and her values align with what we need in a school board member.

Please join me in supporting Shannon Harrell in her pursuit of another 4 years on the school board as she strives to create an inclusive, innovative, and nurturing environment for our children. Our schools deserve a passionate advocate and I have every confidence that she will excel in this role.

Grace Helms,
Stuart

Clerk's Office are not running for this office, so why are they continuously being attacked in ads and at candidate forums? Why would you talk so negatively about the ladies that (hopefully not) would be the very ones to TRAIN YOU for this position you seek? Why are they all being blamed for the previous clerks' inconsistencies? Why are they being blamed for not removing the previous clerk when they clearly could not do anything about it? That's why the petition had to be started, to remove the clerk, remember?

Morgan Boothe has already improved so many areas of the Clerk's office and has many plans for the future. Do your own research of these opinions being thrown around and come to your own conclusion of voting for the MOST qualified candidate, Morgan Boothe.

Wayne Gilley,
Clark House Community

strates commitment, and (4) most importantly, after having spent quite a bit of time together over the past year, she has remained true to her Patrick County roots - this demonstrates her integrity. Please join me in supporting and voting for the only candidate that has "In-Office" experience in the Commissioner of Revenue's Office in Patrick County - Tabitha Overby.

Pamela Smith,
Dan River District Ruritans
Zone 1 Governor,
Ararat

Patrick County citizens,

I write to you today to voice my support of Morgan Boothe for the Clerk of Court. I recently attended the Republican committee meeting where local candidates were invited to share their experience and state their vision for the office in which they seek. I listened carefully to the qualifications and goals of each candidate. Now, while I can appreciate the familiarities with the office that Ms. Belcher and Ms. Wade have, neither of them holds the training, professional network, or hands-on experience of Morgan Boothe.

Judge Brinks was mandated by the State to appoint a Clerk who is qualified to vote for and hold the office of Clerk of Court. Judge Brinks did not appoint someone outside of the office or the county, which by

law, he could have. Morgan Boothe was appointed because of her qualifications, leadership skills, and moral values.

Since becoming appointed Morgan Boothe has made many, much needed upgrades to the Clerk's office which has allowed for a more citizen-focused experience. The upgrades have ensured the continuity of business and preserved the history of Patrick County, which I am thankful for.

I leave you with my final thought. I strongly believe we are fortunate to have a selfless public servant with honor and integrity who is already trained and ready to happily assist you as Patrick County's Clerk of Court, Morgan Boothe.

Wilbur Walker,
Peter's Creek District

To all voters in Patrick County. Erica Wade is running for Clerk of Court.

Erica Wade would be excellent for this position. Erica has personality, plus she is dependable, an efficient hard worker, perseveres in crises, can work with all kinds of personalities or people.

She is loyal and will give 125% to the job.

Please cast your vote for Erica Wade for Clerk of Court.

Betty Martin,
Lawsonville, N.C.

Patrick County,

I am writing to ask for careful consideration on this upcoming election day for the Clerk's race. Morgan Boothe is the most qualified candidate for the office of Clerk of Court. Morgan has years of hands-on experience in the office. She has shown innovation and implementation of new ideas and projects that allow operation of this office to be more effective and streamlined. Morgan has built a positive and trusting relationship with the people who

walk into the clerk's office and conduct business. Morgan isn't interested in conducting a smear campaign; she is about the business at hand. Your vote for Morgan will be a vote for someone who is capable and someone who will continue with the quality and service you expect this office to deliver.

VOTE BOOTHE AT THE BOOTH!

Ann Sheppard,
Meadows of Dan

Pro Boothe

I have had the privilege of knowing Morgan Boothe up close and personal for all of her life. I have watched her grow from a sweet shy little girl into a confident, compassionate, intelligent young lady.

When Morgan secured employment as a Deputy Clerk, she was so proud and happy to have the opportunity to work for and serve the people of her beloved Patrick County. She was eager to learn and had the chance to discover all the facets of the office as she moved into all the positions within the office. She is without question the most qualified candidate in the race for Clerk of Court.

When the honorable Judge Brinks chose and appointed Morgan as our Interim Clerk of Court, she was both humbled and honored. Upon being given the reigns of the office, she got busy. Receiving no increase in wages and no overtime compensation, she and the Deputy Clerks worked diligently and cohesively to clean up and correct matters that the previous Clerk of Court had left behind. They worked past 5 p.m. many nights, and Morgan could

still be found there most of those nights after 10 p.m.

With no cost to the people of Patrick County, Morgan has implemented numerous improvements and updates that have already improved the efficiency of the office and she has many more planned if she is elected. She has the full support of the current Deputy Clerks and they have proven their appreciation of her leadership and their willingness to work with her.

I have always been proud to be Morgan's aunt, but never more so than in the last few months. She has campaigned with moral principle, honesty, and integrity by running only on her qualifications and merit. She has proven her dedication to the office with her leadership and work ethic.

When called upon by Judge Brinks she came through for Patrick County and now it's time for Patrick County to come through for Morgan Boothe. Vote Morgan Boothe for Clerk of Court on November 7th.

Deborah Cottrell,
Patrick Springs

Dear Patrick County neighbors, citizens, concerned voters,

My name is Toni McSwain, I am a Broker, Realtor, and Owner of Virginia Mountain Realty, and I am writing to ask for your consideration in voting for Morgan Boothe for Clerk of Court. I have been working with Morgan throughout her career at the Clerk's Office beginning in 2017. Morgan is so helpful, extremely knowledgeable, and great to work with. Anytime I have had an emergency with a closing, I know she will help in any way she can.

Since her Interim Clerk appointment, she has made great strides for the real estate world, which in my opinion, dominates the workload along with every other career involved in real estate, from surveyors, attorneys, appraisers, title search examiners. Before Morgan, it was about impossible to get someone to LISTEN and ACTUALLY GET ANYTHING DONE.

MORGAN BOOTHE TOOK EVERY OBSTACLE AND IMPROVED THE ENTIRE HEART AND SOUL OF PATRICK COUN-

TY. Patrick County was the only county Clerk's Office nearby that only had images scanned to the mid 90's. This has been quite the hardship driving 45 minutes to an hour to do my deed research. Morgan has just back scanned a huge chunk of deeds back to 1973, which helps tremendously for our 60-year searches. Realtors, appraisers, title search examiners, and attorneys across the state are saying BRAVO MORGAN BOOTHE! This project should have been done years and years ago.

This upcoming election day I ask that you not vote for a candidate just because they are your family twice removed, or your neighbor's best friend, or just because you know their parents. Vote for the one that deserves the position and has already proved that time and time again. Vote Morgan Boothe for Patrick County Clerk of Court. Toni McSwain,
Stuart

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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

Mrs. Mary Mooney, her sister Ellen, and cousin Ruth

By Beverly Belcher Woody

Food Country USA has been in the news lately with the acquisition of Lowe's Foods in Stuart. The Lowe's Foods site has undergone many transitions over the years; it used to be Sky City, and before that, it was Charles Powell's duck ponds!

In 1980, the property was purchased by V. R. Williams, who in turn sold it to the North Carolina firm that built Stuart's first shopping center. On the hill above the duck ponds sat a majestic brick home, built by Judge A. M. Lybrook in 1865. This magnificent home was torn down in 1983 to build what is now known as Stuart Family Restaurant; at the time it was first built, the diner was known as Druther's.

When I was a young girl in the 1970's, Mr. Powell had a pair of swans in his ponds, and he would always decorate for Christmas with Santa Claus sitting in a boat on the pond. Mr. and Mrs. Powell owned the Judge Lybrook home from the 1950's until the sale to Williams in 1980. According to a 1983 article written by Nancy Lindsey for the Enterprise, Judge Lybrook's heirs sold the home in 1903 to William Hughes Clark and his new bride, Mary Ellen Howard. Mr. and Mrs. Clark chose the name "Glenwood" for the home where their four children would be born and raised.

Lindsey interviewed the Clark's daughter, Mrs. Mary Howard Clark Mooney in 1983 and Mooney shared the following information, "the 150-acre farm on the outskirts of downtown Stuart was a marvel of industry and beauty combined, with beehives, smokehouse, cider mill, springhouse, greenhouse, acres of fruit trees, grape arbors, vegetable gardens, and a flour mill. From the Glenwood farm, father built the area's first electrical power plant and furnished power to many families in the community. He ran the flour mill, the cider mill, and in 1889, he purchased the Patrick Springs Hotel, which was a popular resort known for its' healing waters."

Mrs. Mooney was a schoolteacher at Stuart Elementary/High School, and I recall her as being a very kind, soft-spoken lady. I remember she lived in an apartment over one of the businesses on Main Street. I had no idea that she had grown up at the home that I knew as the Charles Powell home.

I did a little research on Mrs. Mooney and her family and discovered the following.... Mrs. Mooney's father, William "Will" Hughes Clark was born in 1863 to Joseph Martin Clark and Ella Virginia Jefferson Clark. Will Clark was the oldest of eight children born to the couple, then came May Carlton,



Mary Clark Mooney in Stuart yearbook.

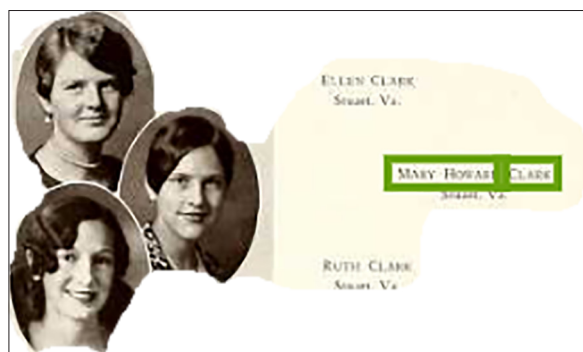
Joseph Jefferson, Edward Lybrook, John Robert, Walter Ernest, Lillian Ann, and Bessie Ella.

Will married Nancy Pickeral on the first of November 1884; the couple had two daughters, Dovie and Daisy. Tragically, Nancy died in 1900. Will married Miss Mary Ellen Howard from Floyd County in 1903 and they begin their lives at Glenwood. The couple's son, William Hughes Clark, Jr. was born in 1909, followed by daughters, Ellen in 1911, and Mary Howard (Mrs. Mooney) in 1912, and son, Charles Martin Clark in 1917. The same year, Will's brother, Walter Ernest Clark, was crushed to death by a railroad car. Walter's widow, Mabel Lawson Clark, and their two children, Ruth, born in 1913, and Walter, born in 1916, moved to Glenwood.

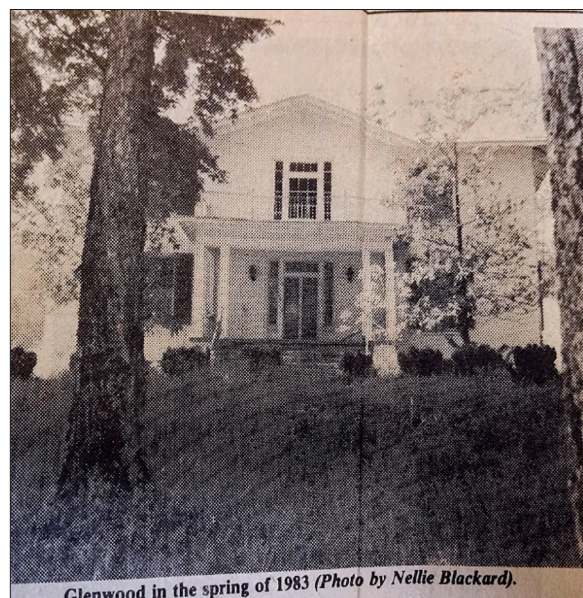
Tragedy struck in the years 1923 and 1924, with Mary Ellen Howard Clark dying of a gallbladder infection and her husband, Will dying the following year. Mrs. Mooney's aunt by marriage, Mabel, continued to live at Glenwood and raise her two children, Ruth and Walter, and the four children of Will and Mary Ellen Clark.

In Lindsey's interview with Mrs. Mooney, she shared memories of growing up in this blended family, "I treasure the memories of my parents the decade before they died, but later on when my aunt and cousins came to live here, we were part of an extended, happy family at the old homeplace. I can remember taffy-pull parties, riding horses up Dobyns Road, and riding the Dick and Willie train to Danville with my sister Ellen and cousin Ruth."

All three of the girls, Mary (Mrs. Mooney), her



Clark Sisters and Cousin from Stuart, Greensboro College 1930.



Glenwood, photo from Nellie Blackard in The Enterprise.

sister Ellen, and cousin Ruth attended Greensboro College together and I managed to find a photo of all three girls together in the yearbook. The girls looked so beautiful and stylish with their bob haircuts. Ellen married first, in March of 1933, to Brent Angel of Surry County. Ellen died only seven months later of acute pancreatitis; she was only 22 years old. Mary married in 1937 to Blaise Bate Mooney, a mechanical engineer, and they moved to Queens, New York. Cousin Ruth married in 1939 to Robert Blevins, a railroad superintendent and they moved to Richmond.

Mrs. Mooney passed away in 1994 at the age of eighty-one and Cousin Ruth died at the age of 100 in 2013. Although Mrs. Mooney and Cousin Ruth moved away from Stuart for a while, they returned back to Patrick County and all three Clark girls, Ellen, Mary, and Ruth were laid to rest at New Hope Methodist Church cemetery in Five Forks.

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 – Can My Wife Claim Her Benefit Now, and Switch to a Spouse Benefit from Me Later?

Dear Rusty: Can my wife claim her benefits now (at 63, and we know about the reduction for claiming early) and then, when I retire at 66 years and 10 months of age almost 3 years from now, can she switch over to spousal benefits based on my benefit amount? She worked at a higher paying job for much of her career but is now at a much lower income and would be under the amount that would reduce her benefits further. I currently earn about nine times her annual salary so the spousal benefit for her would be an increase when I retire. Signed: Seeking Information

Dear Seeking: Yes, your wife can claim her own (reduced) Social Security retirement benefit now, and she will be automatically awarded a spousal boost when you later claim your

SS retirement benefit. However, your wife's benefit when you claim will not be 50% of your full retirement age (FRA) amount because she claimed her own SS benefit early and also because her spousal boost will be awarded prior to her FRA. Any benefit taken before FRA is reduced, including the spousal benefit.

Here's what will happen if your wife claims her own Social Security at age 63:

- Your wife's personal SS retirement benefit, when she claims, will be reduced by about 25%
- When you claim at your full retirement age, your wife will get a "spousal boost" to her own reduced benefit.
- The amount of your wife's spousal boost will be the difference between her FRA entitlement and 50% of your FRA entitlement, reduced because the spousal boost will be awarded (automatically) before she has reached her own full retirement age. FRA amounts are used to compute the spousal boost, regardless of the age at which benefits are claimed.

• When you claim your wife will not yet be her FRA, so the amount of her spousal boost (the difference between her FRA entitlement and half of your FRA entitlement) will be reduced.

• The reduced spousal boost will be added to your wife's reduced SS retirement benefit, resulting in her total benefit payment being less than half of yours.

The only way your wife can get the full 50% of your FRA entitlement is to wait until her own FRA (67) to claim Social Security, but by doing so she also forfeits the money she would otherwise receive if she claimed her own benefit now. As long as she won't significantly exceed the earnings limit while working before her FRA, claiming now is an acceptable strategy because it will take many years to recover the money forfeited by waiting until her FRA to claim. It's also reasonable because women statistically outlive men and your wife's benefit as your surviving spouse will be 100% of the amount you are receiving at your death, instead of the smaller spousal

amount she was receiving while you were both living.

When to claim is always a personal choice, and life expectancy should always be thoughtfully considered, but the answer to your specific question is - yes, if your wife claims her own benefit at 63, she will automatically receive her spousal boost when you claim, but her payment as your spouse will be less than 50% of your FRA benefit amount.

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Is A Plant-Based Diet Good For Your Skin?

Did you know that your skin is the largest organ of the body? Not only that, it makes up 16% of our body's weight. Why, then, do we disregard the necessities and care our skin needs daily?

It's been shown that eating plant-based foods reduces the chances of skin inflammation. At the same time, it increases alkalinity in the body, specifically by foods high in omega-3 fatty acids or unsaturated fatty acid. Fatty acids aid in providing energy for the muscles, heart, and other organs, making them the building blocks for cell membranes, and are used as energy storage for the body.

Inflammation is a mechanism of the body that indicates there is something in your body that it cannot accept. Inflammation is warning you that there is something harmful your body is encountering, such as pollution, sun exposure, or certain foods. Inflammation is usually short term until you find the source and discontinue contact. It becomes a danger when the inflammation is chronic. This is usually due to that fact that the harmful cause is not addressed and stopped.

Chronic inflammation is due to glycation. Glycation is the process of sugar

molecules binding, damaging, or breaking down essential proteins in the body. This includes a protein called collagen that is found in our skin. Glycation is not only linked to aging, but it's also linked to life-threatening chronic diseases like vascular disease and atherosclerosis. Consuming refined sugars triggers the process of glycation.

How can we boost the health of our skin?

Your body needs fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds, and legumes because these foods contain the essential nutrients that the body requires to flourish. As it turns out, your skin needs these nutrients just as much as the rest your body.

For example, vitamins E and C protect the skin from sun exposure and decrease wrinkles. Vitamin A maintains and repairs skin tissue. It is important to remember the vitamin B complex, specifically biotin. Biotin is the basis for your skin, hair, and nails and is vital to keeping the skin barrier functionally strong and protecting against external harm. There are minerals that are required for healthy skin as well. Zinc, copper, and selenium play roles in skin barrier func-

tion, protection against free radicals, and prevention from skin conditions.

Improve your digestion to improve your skin health

Even your digestive health is connected to your skin health. For instance, if you aren't consuming plenty of healthy fats, your skin will be drier, and your digestive process will be disrupted. Ensure that your body has enough good bacteria such as probiotics. When your gut has the correct number of probiotics, it activates vitamin K, magnesium, calcium, zinc and some B vitamins. All of these are important for healthy skin.

So, what plant-based foods are the best for our skin?

Avocados – yes, our beloved avocados made the list! Not only are avocados high in all the essential nutrients for the body, they have everything your skin needs to thrive, such as vitamins E and C, as well as antioxidants such as lycopene and beta-carotene and essential fatty acids.

Walnuts are high in omega-3, which is important in reducing inflammation, as well as zinc, selenium, and antioxidants. Nuts and seeds are nutrient-packed and are good for overall health, but sunflower

seeds specifically lead to benefiting skin health since they contain selenium, zinc, linoleic acid, and vitamin E.

Bell peppers, leafy greens, and sweet potatoes are a good source of beta-carotene, an antioxidant that is converted to vitamin A and not only keeps your skin youthful but also improves your longevity. Finally, broccoli is rich in beta-carotene, lutein, zinc, vitamin A, and vitamin C. But broccoli is best known for the chemical compound sulforaphane. Sulforaphane is proven to benefit skin health by being an antioxidant, anti-microbial, and anti-inflammatory.

With all these newfound, plant-based foods that support your skin, it should make you want these foods as part of your weekly grocery list. The plant-based diet touches every aspect of our physical health and improves it by leaps and bounds. Take charge of your health today and make it a lifelong commitment.

(Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Raeann Lael, MPH. Used by permission from www.lifeandhealth.org. Courtesy of LifeSpring - Resources for Health and Healing Stuart, VA.)

PCHS Fishing Team members qualify for state

Congratulations to several members of the Patrick County High School Fishing Team. The team competed in two separate Qualifying Tournaments of the season at a windy Buggs Island Lake. Check-ins were each morning starting at 5:45 a.m. Presentation of Colors, Pledge of Allegiance along with the Blessing of the Boats, Boaters, Anglers and Fish and National

Anthem were held each morning. Weigh-Ins were held Saturday and Sunday at Occoneechee State Park, Clarksville, Virginia, located along Buggs Island Lake. Buggs Island Lake is the largest lake in Virginia and one of the most scenic in the south. Clarksville is the only incorporated town on this 50,000 acre lake. Created for flood control and hydroelectric power in the mid-20th

century, the lake extends 39 miles from the John H. Kerr Dam up the Roanoke River. There were 119 boats registered to compete throughout the weekend from high schools across the state, making this high school tournament one of the largest the PCHS Fishing Team has ever competed in. Congratulations to Hunter Heath, Jonah Shockley, Chace Handy, Will

Heath, Evan Eastridge, Camdon Fain, Cameron Redd, Austin Stowe, Jake Bryant, Christian Pendleton, Kipton Vipperman and Trenton Miller, they all qualified for the State Tournament to be held in 2024. Thanks to everyone for their continued support of the young anglers. Patrick County was well represented and placed in both divisions.



High School Division Trophies were presented to Chace Handy and Will Heath who placed second in the Saturday Tournament and qualified for State, pictured with B.A.S.S. Nation of VA State Youth Director Jack Babcock.



Pictured Hunter Heath and Jonah Shockley who received 3rd place trophies out of 77 teams on Buggs Island for the Sunday tournament and qualified for State, pictured with B.A.S.S. Nation of VA State Youth Director Jack Babcock.



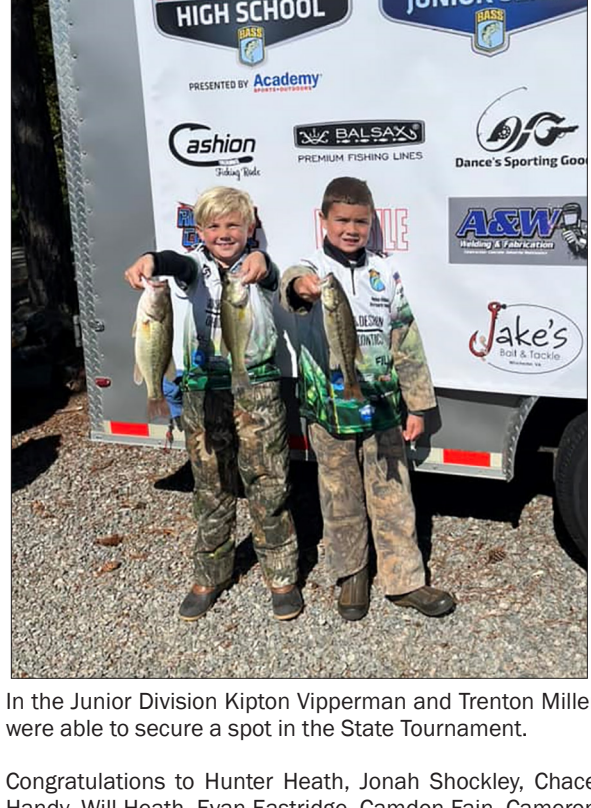
Junior Division Trophies were presented to Evan Eastridge and Camdon Fain who placed third in the Saturday Tournament and qualified for State, pictured with B.A.S.S. Nation of VA State Youth Director Jack Babcock.



Junior Division Trophies were presented to Cameron Redd and Austin Stowe who placed third in Sunday Tournament Two and qualified for State, pictured with Boat Captain, Chris Redd.



In the Junior Division, Big Fish Trophies were presented to Christian Pendleton and Jake Bryant and they were able to secure a spot in the State Tournament.



In the Junior Division Kipton Vipperman and Trenton Miller were able to secure a spot in the State Tournament. Congratulations to Hunter Heath, Jonah Shockley, Chace Handy, Will Heath, Evan Eastridge, Camdon Fain, Cameron Redd, Austin Stowe, Jake Bryant, Christian Pendleton, Kipton Vipperman and Trenton Miller, they all qualified for the State Tournament to be held in 2024. Thanks to everyone for their continued support of the young anglers.

Christopher Bell Wins in Miami: Back to Championship 4

By Holly Cain
NASCAR Wire Service

In one of the most thrilling NASCAR Cup Series Playoff races of the season, Joe Gibbs Racing driver Christopher Bell rallied from a frustrating race start to lead the final 16 laps of Sunday's 4EVER 400 presented by Mobil 1 at Homestead-Miami Speedway to earn a second straight appearance into the Championship 4. Bell, who only made his first appearance inside the top five on track with less than 50 laps remaining, got around a pair of the day's front runners in the final laps to blaze to the lead in the No. 20 JGR Toyota and claim that automatic championship admission ticket. It's the 28-year-old Oklahoma native's second win of the season – sixth of his career – and the first of the season's eight Playoff races to date. Last year Bell famously pulled off a "walk off" victory in the regular season finale at Martinsville (Va.) Speedway to claim his first NASCAR Cup Series championship bid, ultimately finishing third in the title run. His win Sunday had that same "rally" feel and he now joins last week's winner, Kyle Larson as the only two Playoff drivers set for the title run with one race remaining to decide the other two. Bell led fellow Playoff driver, Team Penske's Ryan Blaney to the Homestead checkered flag by a 1.651-seconds – just ahead of Playoff drivers, 23XI Racing's Tyler Reddick and Hendrick Motorsports' William Byron. Kaulig Racing's A.J. Allmendinger rounded out the top five. "I've got the best team behind me, honestly I don't know [how we did it], that race was a whirlwind," Bell said. "I was about ready to throw the towel in during that second stage, I got really

frustrated. But [crew chief] Adam Stevens kept after it and gave me what I needed. Whenever we got some clean air this thing was really good. "I cannot say how proud I am to be here with our partners, driving these Toyota Camrys. Thank you to everyone who supported me. This is better than a dream come true." Although disappointed to not secure the win after leading 53 laps, Blaney said, "We were trying, we just needed laps. "The long run car was really good. I just couldn't fire off for 10 laps or so. I think the track cooling off [during the red flag] helped those guys. I think we were better in the hotter, slicker conditions when "fire off" speed didn't matter as much and it fell off quicker. That played into our benefit. "We ran out of laps a little bit," he added. "I am proud of the effort. It was a really good day, we just got beat a little bit there at the end." It was certainly the cap to a thrilling final 40 laps of competition to cap off the sunny South Florida afternoon. In a matter of five minutes during those closing laps, Bell took the race lead and two of his Joe Gibbs Racing teammates also in the Playoffs – Denny Hamlin and regular season champion Martin Truex Jr. – fell out the race with major problems. Hamlin's No. 11 JGR Toyota slammed into the Turn 1 wall. And as the field slowed for that caution period, Truex turned down pit road and told the team his car "might be blowing up." As Hamlin sat on pit wall, disappointed and speaking with his crew, Truex turned the engine off and the crew pushed his No. 19 JGR Toyota it into the garage. Both Playoff drivers were done for the day and dropping below

the crucial top-four threshold that will advance to the Nov. 5 Championship 4 race in Phoenix. Truex was scored 29th and Hamlin, 30th. All of it making for an even more intense race at the half-mile Martinsville (Va.) Speedway next week that will formally set the four-driver NASCAR Cup Series championship field. "We tried and it just didn't work out," an obviously disappointed Hamlin said. "It shows you how hard our sport is, that's two cars and we had been up front," JGR team owner Joe Gibbs said. "It also shows you in sports - particularly in ours with that 20-car - it shows never to stop fighting." With only that Martinsville race remaining, Byron now sits 30 points ahead of the championship cut-off line with Blaney in fourth place - 10 points up on Reddick. Bell's JGR teammates Truex and Hamlin are now both 17 points below the Cut-off line. Among the eight Playoff drivers, Roush Fenway Keselowski's Chris Buescher – a three-race winner this season – struggled the most, going two laps down midway through the second stage and never cracking the top 20. He's now in eighth place, 43 points back with a 21st place finish Sunday and will need to win the Martinsville race to advance to his first Championship 4. One of the more unusual incidents of the entire season – let alone the Playoffs - happened during a green flag pit stop and involved Blaney and Larson – who were running first and second at the time with 53 laps remaining. As their two cars approached pit road, Blaney slowed significantly, and Larson was still going faster directly behind him. While trying to avoid ramming into the back of Blaney's Ford, Larson turned his No. 5 Hendrick Motorsports

Chevy to the right and went full-on into the sand-filled protective barriers at pit entrance causing them to explode with sand. It caused enough damage on Larson's car that he had to take it into the garage and the team retired it. Blaney was able to finish his pit stop and make his way back on track. He reassured the lead when the rest of the cars pit following a nearly 13-minute red flag period. "I need to look at data," said an apologetic Larson, who finished 34th despite leading a race best 96 of the 267 laps. "I knew where the yellow line was but on the replay it looked like I missed it by a lot. So I need to look at data. I knew where the yellow line was and I was under control getting there and then he just slowed down, I locked the brakes, clipped him and hit the barrels. "I'm upset with myself more than anything. Whether he got to pit road speed sooner than the yellow line or not, I could have just done a little better job. "I hope they're able to recover and he can get a good finish or the win and get the finish he (Blaney) deserves. Just a bummer. I thought we had a great car today and just made a mistake." 23XI Racing's Bubba Wallace, Joe Gibbs Racing's rookie Ty Gibbs, Team Penske's Joey Logano, Stewart-Haas Racing's Aric Almirola and Richard Childress Racing's Austin Dillon rounded out the top 10. The NASCAR Cup Series moves to the famed Martinsville (Va.) Speedway half-miler for next Sunday's Xfinity 500 (2 p.m. ET, NBC, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio) to close out this round of competition and formalize the Championship 4 competitors for the Nov. 5 Phoenix season finale. Bell won last year's Martinsville Playoff race. Larson won the Spring race this year.

Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

*Justin Lewis Wood, 46, of Woolwine, was charged Oct. 13 with probation violation. Deputy C.L. Adkins made the arrest for Floyd County.

*Keith Samuel Gunter, 56, of Mt. Airy, N.C., was charged Oct. 13 with malicious shoot/throw into occupied building. Sgt. J.D. Lewis was the arresting officer.

*Roscoe Benjamin Hensley, 51, of Mt. Airy, N.C., was charged Oct. 13 with one count each grand larceny and break and enter. Sgt. J.D. Lewis was the arresting officer.

*Jody Wayne Adkins, Jr., was charged Oct. 13 with one count each reckless driving and disobey law enforcement command. Deputy A. Kinney was the arresting officer.

*Katina Renee Vipperman, 39, of Stuart, was charged Oct. 14 with one count each probation violation, and reckless drive. Senior Trooper J.M. Hylton was the arresting officer.

*Michael Timothy Puckett, 52, of Cana, was charged Oct. 15 with arson. Deputy E. Sain was the arresting officer.

*Eli Edward Donbullion, 58, of Meadows of Dan, was charged Oct. 16 with intentional damage to a monument. Sgt. C.A. Frick was the arresting officer.

*David Lee Brwon, 41, of Mt. Airy, N.C., was charged Oct. 16 with fail to comply with terms of bond. Deputy C. Gilbert was the arresting officer.

*Billy Eugene Kee, Jr., of Bassett, was charged Oct. 16 with four counts probation violation and two counts shoplift. Deputy Strother made the arrest for Henry County.

*Joseph Michael Fleenor, 35, of Mt. Airy, N.C., was charged Oct. 17 with probation violation. Sgt. C. Frick was the arresting officer.

*Billy Eugene Kee, Jr., 46, of Bassett, was charged Oct. 17 with probation violation. Sgt. C. Frick made the arrest for Danville.

*Kevin Harris, 35, of Stuart, was charged Oct. 17 with contempt of court. First Sgt. B.L. Vipperman was the arresting officer.

*Daniel Edward Tucker, 62, of Critz, was charged Oct. 17 with possession of Sch. I or II drugs. Deputy A. Kinney was the arresting officer.

*Casey Lynn Rogers, 30, of Henry County Jail, was charged Oct. 18 with probation violation. Henry County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*David Wayne Chaney, 53, of Stuart, was charged Oct. 18 with two counts of assault and one count abduction and stalking. Deputy C.L. Elgin was the arresting officer.

Expiration of covid-era funding creates rocky future for Virginia child care

By Kofi Mframa
Capital News Service

Some Virginia child care facilities face an uncertain future with the September expiration of pandemic-era relief funding. Additionally, a recent report found facilities are understaffed and child care is unaffordable for many Virginia families, especially those with young children.

An estimated 88,265 kids in Virginia will lose their child care, according to The Century Foundation, a progressive think tank. An estimated 1,383 programs could close and 2,861 child care workers will lose their jobs.

Places like L & E Bright Future Child Day Center in Virginia Beach are in financial limbo.

Owner Elizabeth Oppong received past government funding, and said she's still struggling to keep the doors open. Her situation will be worse without federal funding, she said.

Oppong can't afford to hire more teachers, she said. That also means she cannot enroll new students, because there are state protocols for teacher to student ratios in day cares. She loses money every day, but there is a demand for her services.

"I get parents calling me every day," she said. "I do have spots, but I don't have a teacher yet."

Oppong, a single mother, opened her day care to help low income families access affordable child care, something she didn't have.

"Half your paycheck is going to day care," Oppong said. "When we opened the day care we decided to open a day care that's affordable."

Most of her clients use social services funding. Her rate can't increase unless the social services rate increases, she said. Oppong can't offset costs, which have seen "a big jump."

"My rent increases 3% every year," she said. "The bills continue to increase; I have gone from \$9 an hour to \$14 an hour to my staff."

Child care centers were stabilized during the pandemic with \$24 billion from the 2021 American Rescue Plan. Day cares used funds to keep doors open despite lower enrollment rates and the increased cost of operations. There was an additional \$15 billion injected to the Child Care and Development Fund.

It is estimated the program helped 220,000 child care providers nationwide, saved approximately 9.6 million child care slots and more than 1 million child care jobs.

Almost 5,000 child care programs in 96% of Virginia counties received a portion of funding, which impacted up to 317,500 children. Almost 3,000 centers used funds to pay for personnel costs and staffing, according to the Virginia ARP Child Care Stabilization Fact Sheet.

More than 2,100 child facilities operated out of homes used stabilization payments to make rent and mortgage payments, typically their largest expense.

Maria-Isabel Ballivian is the executive director of the Annandale Christian Community for Action Child Development Center. The center has the capacity to serve 290 children, but has only 187 enrolled. This is mainly due to staff retention. The center has lost potential staff to the school system because it can't compete with the wages schools provide, Ballivian said.

This directly impacts the quality of care the center is able to provide, she said. An increased number of enrolled children now have developmental delays, particularly speech delays, as a direct result of the pandemic and isolation during critical development, Ballivian said.

"Now early childhood programs like ACCA that are high quality, that provide an inclusive environment for children with special needs, are being forced to do a lot more with a lot less," she said.

Congress called on Biden in August to invest \$16 billion to keep the Child Care Stabilization Fund program going. The end of the program will only worsen the crisis, the letter stated.

Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., who signed the letter, is cosponsor on a bill to extend the fund. Versions of the Child Care Stabilization Act have been introduced in the House and Senate.

Kaine held a video call with the press in late September to discuss short-term solutions to the national budget.

"I am hopeful that in that deal we will include the same kind of robust increases for child care funding that we were able to get in last year's budget," Kaine said.

Federal lawmakers have until Nov. 17 to pass a budget.

A Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission report on Oct. 16 found child care is unaffordable for many Virginia families, especially those with young children. Child care costs throughout Virginia surpass 10% of the median income. The federal government defines affordable child care costs at 7% or less of household income.

The demand for child care in Virginia beats out the availability, with at least 140,000 more slots needed to fill the gap, according to the report.

The JLARC report focused on the state's TANF, SNAP and Child Care Subsidy Programs. JLARC estimated 25,000 less children will have access to subsidized care when state program funding expires next year.

Virginia needs to keep expanded child care funding in place, the commission recommended. It outlined several other legislative and executive actions that could improve access to child care.

Capital News Service is a program of Virginia Commonwealth University's Robertson School of Media and Culture. Students in the program provide state government coverage for a variety of media outlets in Virginia.

Corrections employee arrested after contraband search

A Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) employee has been arrested after a search of their personal vehicle resulted in the seizure of several contraband items.

VADOC Intelligence Staff received intelligence that an employee would be attempting to bring contraband into Sussex I State Prison on Tuesday, October 17.

At approximately 6:45 p.m. on October 17, the employee arrived at the facility and was escorted to a separate room for questioning. During questioning, the employee confessed to meeting an inmate's aunt in Roanoke to pick up cell phones, which are considered contraband in VADOC facilities.

The employee consented to a search of their vehicle and staff found contraband concealed in an article of clothing. In total, staff

found nine cell phones, five packages of tobacco, a package of cell phone charging adapters, two cell phone SIM cards, one pair of earbuds, tobacco wrapping papers and four additional charging cords.

The Sussex County Sheriff's Office was notified of the incident and arrested the employee.

"There is a zero tolerance policy towards drugs and contraband at our facilities," said VADOC Director Chadwick Dotson. "This applies to both inmates and employees. Employees who are found to have contraband and are attempting to smuggle these items into our facility will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

This is an active investigation. No further information will be released until the investigation is complete.

General Fund Revenues in Line with Updated Forecast Through Q1

General fund revenues for September 2023 remain in line with updated revisions to the official revenue forecast, Gov. Glenn Youngkin said last week. In comparison to the revenue forecast assumed in the amended budget, year-to-date total general fund revenues are ahead by \$412.1 million, primarily due to higher non-withholding revenues. All major sources of revenue are generally in line or ahead of projections.

"As inflation driven by excess federal spending keeps gas and grocery costs high, last month we signed Virginia's amended budget, which included an additional \$1 billion in tax relief to continue lowering the cost of living for families, veterans and workers in the Commonwealth," said Youngkin. "We continue to accurately predict the health of the Commonwealth's economy as we continue to see positive economic indicators and growing jobs numbers that signal Virginians' return to the workforce. We continue monitoring the rise in geopolitical instability abroad following the barbaric terrorist attack on the Jewish people in Israel and domestic economic headwinds here at home as inflation persists."

"For the first quarter of fiscal

year 2024, general fund revenues are up 17.9 percent year-over-year and running ahead of projections, driven by better-than-expected individual income non-withholding and corporate income tax collections," said Secretary of Finance Stephen Cummings. "The two revenue sources that most closely reflect current economic conditions in the Commonwealth, payroll withholding and sales tax collections adjusted for policy changes, are up a combined 3.5 percent, reflecting steady growth. Given the conservative outlook assumed in the forecast and results year-to-date, we remain confident in our fiscal year 2024 forecast, and we continue to closely monitor macroeconomic and geopolitical events as they unfold."

General fund revenues were up 51.9 percent for the month of September on an unadjusted basis. Year-to-date through September 30, general fund revenues are up 17.9 percent over the prior year. Adjusting for policy and the timing of refunds related to the Pass-Through Entity Tax (PTET), September revenues increased by 9.4 percent and are up 8.6 percent year-to-date. Adjusting for policy, but excluding PTET adjustments, revenues are up 4.0 percent through September.

Initial unemployment claims rise, data shows

The number of initial unemployment insurance claims increased in the latest filing week to 1,655 and remained at typical pre-pandemic volumes experienced in 2019, according to the Department of Workforce Development and Advancement (DWDA).

For the filing week ending October 14, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 1,655, which was an increase of 277 claimants from the previous week. Continued weeks claimed totaled 12,355, which was five claims lower than the previous week but an increase of 100% from the 6,159 continued claims from the comparable week last year. An industry was reported for ninety-three percent of claimants. Of those, over half (53 percent) of continued claims were from professional, scientific, and technical services (1,865), administrative and support and waste management (1,673), manufacturing (1,461), and health care and social assistance (1,120). 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 October 14, the advance U.S. figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 198,000, a decrease of 13,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 2,000 from 209,000 to 211,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs[1], unadjusted, totaled 181,181 in the week ending October 14, a decrease of 18,561 (or -9.3 percent) from the previous week. There were 178,773 initial claims in the comparable week in 2022.

Looking at preliminary data, most U.S. states reported decreases on a seasonally unadjusted basis. Texas's preliminary weekly change (-3,217) was the largest decrease. New York's preliminary weekly change (-1,897) was the second largest decrease. California's preliminary weekly change (-1,637) was the third largest decrease. New Jersey's preliminary weekly change (-1,590) was the fourth largest decrease. Virginia had the second largest increase (+225).

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Stanley Lee Moran

Mr. Stanley Lee Moran, age 64 of Woolwine, passed away Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at New River Valley Medical Center in Christiansburg. He was born in Patrick County on January 19, 1959. Stanley was preceded in death by his father, Bernard Lee Moran; and a granddaughter, Sarah Lynne Moran. Stanley was a lifetime member of Woolwine Volunteer Fire Department, and he loved his



John Deere tractor.

Surviving are two daughters, Becky Moran, Melissa Moran and fiancé, Zach Belcher; his mother,

Shirley Bowling Moran; one sister, Terri Moran all of Woolwine; and his dog, Rusty.

All services will be private. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is handling the arrangements. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Woolwine Vol. Fire Dept., P. O. Box 138, Woolwine, VA 24185. Online condolences may be sent to www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Teddy Ray Lawless

Mr. Teddy Ray Lawless, age 69 of Stuart, passed away Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at his home. He was born in Patrick County on August 10, 1954, to the late Charlie Wade Lawless, Sr. and Dorothy Puckett Lawless. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife and the love of his life, Donice Jean Lawless; and a granddaughter, Erica Nichole "Nikki" Belcher. He was member of Sycamore Baptist Church and worked retired as a mechanic with VDOT with 30 years of service. He enjoyed working outside, especially using his tractor and bushhogging. He also enjoyed listening to



Bluegrass gospel music.

Surviving is a daughter and son-in-law, Denice Taylor (Joshuah) of Stuart; two grandchildren, Kevin Shane Belcher, and James R. "Trey" Beasley, III; one great-granddaughter, Deliah Marie Nichole Belcher; one sister, Deborah K. Lawless

of Stuart; one brother and sister-in-law, Charlie Wade Lawless, Jr. (Carolyn) of Stuart; special aunt, Nancy Terry, and many special nieces, nephews and cousins.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, October 21, 2023, at 11:00 AM at Sycamore Baptist Church in Stuart with Pastor Shaun Draughn officiating. Burial will follow in the Sycamore Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends 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.

M. Leon Holt

M. Leon Holt, age 80 of Stuart, passed away Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. He was born in Patrick County on June 14, 1943, to the late Moir W. Holt and Ruth Dunn Holt. Leon was an avid golfer and enjoyed gardening. He loved spending time with his family and listening to and watching his granddaughter sing and perform. He attended Middle Cross Missionary Baptist Church for several years.



Surviving is his loving wife of 60 years, Phyllis Hawks Holt

other family members and special friends.

A memorial service will be held Friday, October 20, 2023, at 3:00 PM at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor Mike Morrison officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home and at other times at the home of his daughter, Vicky Hutchens. Flowers will be accepted, or memorials may be made to a charity of the donor's choice. Online condolences may be sent to www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Nettie Ruth Harbour Winfield

Nettie Ruth Harbour Winfield, age 81 of Stuart, passed away Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at Forsyth Medical Center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She was born in Floyd County on September 7, 1942 to the late Parker Davis Quesenberry and Mary Ellen DeHart Quesenberry. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Winfield was preceded in death by her first husband, J.C. Harley Harbour; her second husband, Bill Winfield; a daughter, Vicky Harbour Purdy; three brothers, Odell, Elmer and Ronnie Quesenberry; and special friend, Kathleen Layman. Mrs. Winfield, who was of the Baptist faith, read her Bible daily and was a prayer warrior who never gave up on her faith. She was a loving Mom and "Granny Harbour" who was tough as nails and was the strongest lady her family had ever known. She loved her



children unconditionally and her great-grandchildren were the apple of her eye. She called them her "Little Angels". She loved family functions and going out to eat, especially for tacos or a Big Mac. She was thankful for every day God gave her.

Mrs. Winfield is survived by her children, Teresa Lancaster of Stuart, Lesia Cockram (Don) of Claudville, James Harbour of Wilsonville, Alabama and Jeffrey Harbour (Rebecca) of Stuart; a special step-daughter, Robin Bryant (Joe) of Martinsville; ten grandchildren; fifteen great-grandchildren

dren; two brothers, J.G. Quesenberry of Meadows of Dan and Billy Quesenberry (Anne) of Patrick Springs; several nieces and nephew; special friends, Betty Rogers of Patrick Springs and Iris Lawson of Stuart; and her beloved cat, Petey.

Funeral services for Mrs. Winfield will be held Friday, October 20, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor Freddie Bonds officiating. Burial will follow in Sycamore Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to PAWS (Patrick Animal Welfare Society), P.O. Box 743, Stuart, Virginia 24171 or to Clover Cat Rescue, P.O. Box 829, Stuart, Virginia 24171. Online condolences may be made by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Joseph Maynard Belcher

Mr. Joseph Maynard Belcher, age 90 of Stuart, passed away Sunday, October 22, 2023, at Stanleytown Health and Rehab in Bassett. He was born in Patrick County on September 28, 1933, to the late Greely and Nancy Conner Belcher. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by four sisters, Stella Conner, Mary Conner, Evadell Clark, Velda Smart; and three brothers,



Leonard, Delmer, and John Belcher. Maynard attended Jack's Creek Primitive Baptist Church.

Surviving are numer-

ous nieces, nephews, great nieces, and great nephews.

A graveside service will be held Friday, October 27, 2023, at 2:00 PM in the Jack's Creek Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Kenneth Terry officiating. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is handling the arrangements. Online condolences may be sent to www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Alvin Junior Stegall

Mr. Alvin Junior Stegall, age 85 of Patrick Springs, passed away Saturday, October 21, 2023, at Forsyth Medical Center in Winston-Salem, NC. He was born in Patrick County on September 16, 1938, to the late William Arthur Stegall and Della Foster Stegall. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a daughter, Donna Craddock; one sister, Thelma Harmon; and two brothers, Ralph and Navy Stegall. Alvin enjoyed riding motorcycles and



playing music, especially the guitar, banjo, and harmonica.

Surviving is a daughter and son-in-law, Connie and Rodney Adkins of Stoneville, NC; two sons, Richard Stegall of Bassett, Billy Stegall of

Floyd; eight grandchildren; 11 great grandchildren; one sister, Era Davis of Martinsville; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 1:00 PM at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart. Burial will follow in the Foster Family Cemetery in Patrick Springs. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Online condolences may be sent to www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Jefferson Davis "J.D." Scales, Jr.

Mr. Jefferson Davis "J.D." Scales, Jr. age 93 of Ararat, Virginia passed away on Sunday, October 22, 2023, at Forsyth Medical Center in Winston-Salem surrounded by his loving family. Mr. Scales was born October 26, 1929, in Patrick County to the late Jefferson Davis Scales, Sr. and Gladys Gates Scales. J.D. proudly served his coun-

try in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict. Mr. Scales retired from IBM after 25 years of dedicated service. He was a loving brother, uncle, great-uncle, and friend that will be deeply missed by all who knew him. Surviving are his four sisters and a brother-in-law, Annie S. Tolbert, Daisy M. Barnard, Fay S. Young, Jane S.

Fulk and husband, Michael; numerous nieces and nephews, as well as numerous great-nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, Mr. Scales was preceded in death by a sister, Rachel S. Barnes; four brothers, Jasper S. Scales, John C. Scales, Jerry B. Scales, and James W. Scales. A funeral service will be held on Friday, October 27, 2023, at 11:00 AM at Hunters Chapel Assembly in Ararat, Virginia with Pastor Joseph Easter officiating. Interment will follow in the cemetery adjacent to Hunters Chapel Assembly in Ararat, Virginia. The family will receive friends on Friday, October 27, 2023, at the church from 10:00 AM until 11:00 AM. Flowers will be accepted. Moody Funeral Services in Mount Airy has been entrusted with the arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Pre-Spooktacular Trick or Treat Slated at Blue Ridge Therapy and Landmark Center

Plan on bringing the kids to The Landmark Center and Blue Ridge Therapy Connection on Halloween, Tuesday, October 31 for an opportunity to trick-or-treat with residents before the Spooktacular. The Landmark will

be open from 4:30 to 6 p.m., and Blue Ridge from 5 to 6:30 p.m. for children to show off their costumes and collect candy.

"Our residents just love to see the children in their costumes," said Lisa Martin, di-

rector of community relations for The Landmark Center. "They will be bagging candy and getting excited to participate."

Neither facility requires masks at this time. All community children are invited to attend.

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PATRICK PULPITS

Rest Assured, Israel Will Win

By Van Yandell

Genesis 12: 2 and 7 "And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 7 And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, unto thy seed will I give this land: and there built he an altar unto the Lord."

God did not establish the Jewish race of people to use them and then abandon them. Their primary purpose was to provide the world with a Savior and that they did.

Genesis 12: 3 "Those that bless Israel will be blessed and those that curse Israel will be cursed and all the world will be blessed through them." That blessing came in the form of Savior Jesus.

The fighting and hatred all began with Sarah and Hagar. When Sarah took it upon herself to circumvent God's plan (Genesis 16: 2), she established a nation of people that would always be counteractive to the people Isaac would father. Sarah told Abraham to go to Hagar's tent and make her pregnant so she (Sarah) would have a son. Sarah fully intended the son of Hagar's would be hers.

Genesis 16: 12 "And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren." Ishmael and Isaac did not seem to be at odds as were their mothers. This verse, however, further defines a line between the two.

Genesis 21: 9-10 gives account of Ishmael mocking Isaac. I don't see this as serious or harmful but apparently Sarah did not see it that way.

There is, however, another version of this action by Ishmael against Isaac. Galatians 4: 29 "But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now." Of course, in our current definitions of the words mocking and persecuted, there is a tremendous difference.

Genesis 21:9-20 tells us the story of the mocking. It could be a case of Sarah overreacting and she had Abraham send Hagar and Ishmael away. God assured Abraham that Hagar and her son would be protected (Genesis 21: 12-13) and that Ishmael would also be the father of a great nation (great meaning large).

Regardless of the motivations of Sarah and Hagar, their squabble led to 4000 years of turmoil and hatred.

The battle between the descendants of Ishmael and Isaac is once again raging. The plan is to perpetrate another Holocaust. The Nazis were seen as the most vile, cruel and inhuman people that ever existed.

The number of innocent Jews murdered by Hamas is currently standing at over 1500 dead. The world declared war on Nazi Germany partly because of their actions. Are we about to see a repeat of that? Lines of allegiance to both sides are materializing worldwide. These lines within the U.S. are further dividing us.

Israel is the only democratic country in the Middle East. Other countries are under bondage by a religion. Women, Christians and anyone not conforming to their religious beliefs are in constant danger. The variances in political and religious ideologies seem to be widening. Tolerance and peaceful co-existence may be gone forever.

One thing all religions have in common is that we all think we are right and everyone else is wrong. If one is truly of the Creator God, it would support extensive evidence and only one belief can make that claim. That is Christianity based on the Holy Bible.

One does not have to be a Bible scholar or a genius to see the connection in today's events and the Genesis accounts of Ishmael and Isaac as the origin of the two opposing people groups.

There is a much larger picture than a regional war in last week's actions in the Middle East. The Bible prophecies of the wars of Gog

and Magog or Armageddon could be shaping up to happen.

With last year's action against Ukraine by Russia, this picture may be coming together to evolve into the War of Gog and Magog as described in Ezekiel 38 and 39. Russia is clearly allied with Iran and North Korea. NK could provide the army of two million soldiers as prophesied in Revelation 9: 16.

If Putin succeeds in Ukraine, a gateway would be opened by rivers and seas from Russia to Israel. His next target may be Belarus. This acquisition would further develop a path from Russia to the Mediterranean.

Ezekiel 38: 2-3 "Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him. And say, thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal."

When we put these pieces of the puzzle together, it seems obvious God's plan is coming together. HE has allowed the Jewish people to be reduced in numbers to nearly extinction several times in their history. Many have tried to exterminate the Jews and have indeed, reduced their numbers but have failed to eliminate them.

When Israel was declared a nation at the United Nations in New York, it appears the intent of God was completely reversed. May 14th, 1948, that declaration was signed. Many groups and countries in the Middle East have attempted to wage war against them but have all failed.

The reversal becomes evident because prior to 1948, Israel was the world's punching bag. Since 1948, no one has realized any success in defeating them. To plan and initiate a second Holocaust will not happen.

They were punished by exile from the Promised Land from 70AD when the Romans burned Jerusalem until 1948. Descriptions of the Promised Land (Joshua 1: 4, Genesis 15: 18, Numbers 34: 3-4, Exodus 23: 31, Ezekiel 47: 15-20) in the Bible describe a land mass of over 300,000 square miles. Current day Israel is only 8,300 square miles.

With this apparent reversal of intent, it certainly appears, God has reinstated them as a succeeding people. Any and all attempts to destroy them will miserably fail.

Zechariah 2:8 "After glory He has sent me against the nations that plunder you, for the one who touches you, touches the apple of His eye."

If any individual, people group or country expects to challenge God's people and succeed or survive, they best think again. Christians are often referred to as Judeo-Christians. While gentile Christians may not contain Jewish blood, our New Testament is based on the Old Testament which is in part a history of the Jewish people.

Jesus was not a Christian but a Jew, but because of Him Christianity was established. As a perfect man (1 Peter 2: 22), His sacrificial death on the cross for the sins of the world serves as a reminder to us of how much God loves His creation in His image: mankind (Genesis 1: 27).

This is history and an evidentiary fact. Always follow the evidence and it will lead you to the truth. The evidence is overwhelming that Christ Jesus died for the remission of sin and was resurrected.

While the Jewish race of people may not be the largest in number, they are under the care of the Almighty God. If anyone thinks for one second they will be defeated or eliminated, think again.

(Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and commissioned missionary, from Fredonia, Kentucky. A part of the Bible Connection series. His email: vmy2121@outlook.com.)

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Acts (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What companion of Paul was commended for his holy scripture knowledge since childhood? Timothy, Linus, Trophimus, Jude
3. From 1 John 4:8, "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is ____." Honor, Love, Everlasting, Comfort
4. What king unwittingly signed a decree causing Daniel to be thrown into the lions' den? Elah, Jabin, Darius, Agag

5. Because Moses was standing on holy ground, what did God tell him to remove? Cloak, Hat, Shoes, Armor

6. In Judges 16, who said, "Let me die with the Philistines"? Samson, Micah, Delilah, Manoah

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Timothy, 3) Love, 4) Darius, 5) Shoes, 6) Samson

"Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online. (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

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| ACROSS | DOWN | DOWN | DOWN | DOWN |
| 1 Vocalist Vaughan | 1 Tanning lotion stat | 1 Tanning lotion stat | 38 Move furtively | 80 Yemeni capital |
| 6 Falsely present as genuine | 2 Aids for walking tours | 2 Aids for walking tours | 43 Gunky stuff | 82 Poppa |
| 12 Wizards-Magic matchups, e.g. | 3 Scarlet tanager | 3 Scarlet tanager | 44 Cry of cheer | 83 — -Magnon |
| 20 Brand of spaghetti sauce | 4 Old film critic James | 4 Old film critic James | 45 Siouan tribe | 84 Unit of com |
| 21 Illicit moneylender | 5 Biblical peak identified with Sinai | 5 Biblical peak identified with Sinai | 46 Pos. opposite | 89 Source of a purple fruit |
| 22 Legendary lost city of gold | 6 Ending for eye or mouth | 6 Ending for eye or mouth | 47 Safe, in hardball | 91 Augmenting |
| 23 Carjacking or kidnapping | 7 Fancy word for "kiss" | 7 Fancy word for "kiss" | 48 Give a convincing argument | 92 Start to get tiresome |
| 25 Guys playing in central positions in team sports | 8 Little donkey | 8 Little donkey | 49 Brews, as tea | 93 Witty Bombeck |
| 26 Whirling, old-style | 9 Round rubber gasket | 9 Round rubber gasket | 52 Pre-coll. exam | 95 Nation within a nation |
| 27 Vase variety | 10 Masc. opposite | 10 Masc. opposite | 53 Itemize, e.g. | 96 Golfer Michelle |
| 28 Disgrace | 11 Plaster painting | 11 Plaster painting | 54 Recon data | 97 Hip-hop "Dr." |
| 30 Major Dutch banking corp. | 12 Kathmandu native | 12 Kathmandu native | 55 River of forgetfulness | 98 See |
| 31 "I believe," on the internet | 13 Zeppelin, e.g. | 13 Zeppelin, e.g. | 58 Subpar grade | 99 51-Across |
| 32 Metabolism or reproduction | 14 Not favorable | 14 Not favorable | 60 Savory taste of MSG | 100 Mmes.' counterparts |
| 37 Places for petri dishes | 15 Gunky stuff | 15 Gunky stuff | 61 A beatnik may beat it | 101 Wood cutter |
| 39 Old Delta rival | 16 Still lifes, e.g. | 16 Still lifes, e.g. | 62 Partners of poppas | 102 Software revision, e.g. |
| 40 Actress Anderson | 17 Ike's first lady | 17 Ike's first lady | 63 Disjoin, as a pair of oxen | 105 Pack away |
| 41 Haul to court | 18 Utopias | 18 Utopias | 64 Transitioned smoothly | 106 Violin cousin |
| | 19 Jukebox selections | 19 Jukebox selections | 65 Answers an invite | 107 Get frosty |
| | 24 Supreme Court's Samuel | 24 Supreme Court's Samuel | 70 Honk | 108 Facilitates |
| | 29 Solo of "Solo" | 29 Solo of "Solo" | 71 Casual shirt | 109 Proportion |
| | 31 "Casablanca" heroine | 31 "Casablanca" heroine | 72 Fun activities, for short | 110 Lacking skill |
| | 33 Embrace fully | 33 Embrace fully | 75 Airing past midnight, say | 111 Thees and — |
| | 34 Not healthy | 34 Not healthy | 76 — Island (Big Apple borough) | 117 Em, to Dorothy |
| | 35 Surpass in firepower | 35 Surpass in firepower | 77 Airing past midnight, say | 119 Hurdle for some college srs. |
| | 36 Tabloid VIPs | 36 Tabloid VIPs | 79 Mayberry boy | 120 "2 funny!!!" |
| | | | | 122 Relatives, casually |
| | | | | 123 "— a pity!" |
| | | | | 124 Casual shirt |

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EXCELLENT CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Patrick County Farm Bureau has an excellent career opportunity available in our Stuart office location. The County Administrative Assistant position serves as the primary support person to the County President, Board of Directors and office staff. Specific duties include answering phone regarding membership and/or insurance related questions, drafting and editing correspondence, coordinating projects and events, preparing presentations, assisting with board activities, and managing a complex daily schedule and travel arrangements as well as expense management and other routine office related functions. Qualifications include a minimum of one-year administrative experience, proficiency in all MSOffice products, and strong customer service skills. A health insurance license along with property and casualty licensing are required but may be obtained after employment begins. The candidate must be energetic and proactive with excellent interpersonal skills. Must have demonstrated the ability to use discretion, handle confidential information and make sound decisions with limited day to day supervision.

For consideration, please send resume to **Betsy.Conner@vafb.com** or mail to **Patrick County Farm Bureau PO Box 458, Stuart, VA 24171.**



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ABC NOTICE Food Country USA of Stuart Inc. trading as Food Country USA Stuart, 301 S Main Street Ste D, Stuart, Patrick County, VA 24171 The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Virginia ABC license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Don Henderson, President NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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Master Gardeners earmark sale proceeds for Alzheimer's group

Thanks to the community for supporting the Master Gardeners' 2nd Native Plant Sale. The total proceeds from this sale were \$761, of which all will be donated to the Patrick County Alzheimer's group. Native plants are beautiful and great supporters of pollinators and other wildlife. We are pleased

so many native plants will be planted throughout the community. Join the Master Gardeners at 10 a.m. on November 4th, at the Learning Garden, 1208 Tudor Orchard Road, for a workshop on fruit trees, forest farming and growing garlic. The event is free and open to the public.



Patrick County Master Gardeners.



Master Gardeners assisting a community member in finding the perfect native plants for their yard.

PRESENTS

Holiday Havoc

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CARD SUBJECT TO CHANGE

NICW HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP
THE DRAGON SCOTT LEE vs YELA MAN

JOHN HEARTBREAK vs LANCE ERIKSON

MID-ATLANTIC HERITAGE CHAMPIONSHIP
ADAM HEX vs THE DUSTMAN MARK ANTHONY

THE HANGMAN LARRY COOTER vs TONY RAY

CUBAN ASSASSIN vs TONY RAY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023
DOORS OPEN 6PM, BELL 7PM

TICKETS:

KIDS 6-12: \$10 ADVANCED
\$12 AT THE DOOR

13-ADULT: \$12 ADVANCED
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KIDS 5 & UNDER: FREE!

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Jonathan Wood

for
Peters Creek Supervisor

GOALS:

- ★ Provide a transparent government in all financial matters and other dealings.
- ★ A budget at the county and departmental level (sheriff's office, school system, health and welfare, etc) that all people can understand.
- ★ Add business and industry that provides good paying jobs with benefits for ourselves and children
- ★ Balanced budget without tax increases.
- ★ Allow for greater public input and participation in BOS meetings without making the speakers feel as they are on trial.
- ★ Increased support for Fire and Rescue.
- ★ Push for access to 24-hour medical care.
- ★ Increased infrastructure including internet access.

★★★★★ **Candidate Meet and Greet** ★★★★★

Come out to Patrick Springs Recreation Park Shelter on Saturday, October 28, 2023 and have a meet and greet with Candidate Jonathan Wood. Free hotdogs, drinks, and chips will be provided. 11am till 2pm.

Paid for by Jonathan Wood for Supervisor

MORGAN BOOTHE IS YOUR **BEST CHOICE** FOR PATRICK COUNTY CLERK OF THE COURT!

HERE ARE A FEW SAMPLES OF RECENT IMPROVEMENTS AT THE CLERK'S OFFICE UNDER HER LEADERSHIP:

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✔ Automated Judgments

✔ Established relationships with other Courts for networking

✔ Judicial Imaging System for visiting

✔ All staff enrolled in Virginia Court Clerks' Association

✔ Completed 300+ backlogged Sentencing Orders

✔ Case Imaging System

✔ Virginia Jury Management

✔ Updated speaker system in Courtroom

✔ Reconstructed Court processes to Speed up case updating

✔ Back scanning Deeds from

✔ Put Land Transfers back in The Enterprise

✔ Automated Deed Numbering

✔ Facebook page for updates

✔ Destroyed old Election Materials past 2-year threshold

✔ Caught up Probate filings 6 months behind

✔ Access to Court Recordings in Clerk's Office

✔ Cross-training in different positions

MORGAN BOOTHE, SHE'S THE **ONLY** CHOICE!

For
Patrick County Clerk of Court

Paid for by Morgan Boothe for Clerk

Meetings

Wednesday, Oct. 25
 The Patrick County Economic Development Authority (EDA) will meet at 7 p.m. in the Patrick County Administration Building.

Monday, Nov. 13
 The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will meet at 6 p.m. in the third-floor court room of the Patrick County Administration Building.

Wednesday, Nov. 15
 The Stuart Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. in the Town Office.

Events

Friday, Oct. 27
 The annual fall chili cook-off & music at Wayside Community Church, starting at 6:30 p.m. Celebrate fall in the best way: with chili, music, friends and family and special message. Western themed event. Guest speaker Pastor Dale Pack and Music by the talented Carter Family. Pastor Teddy Hiatt and the congregation invites you to bring your best chili recipe to share or simply come visit and enjoy food and fellowship. The winner of the best chili gets a prize.

Saturday, Oct. 28
 Fairy Stone State Park will hold a ranger led Ghost Hike beginning at the ADA Fishing Area parking lot at 7, 8, and 9 p.m. Don't forget your flashlight. To register, call the park's office at (276) 930-2424.

High Point Baptist Church will hold a free bowl of soup event from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Vegetable beef and meat-free vegetable soups, dine-in or take out, 2381 Big A School Road, Stuart.

Ross Harbour Church will hold a Trunk or Treat in the lower parking lot, 6260 Elamsville Road, Stuart, from 4-6 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 29
 Sycamore Baptist Church will hold a benefit gospel singing from 6-8 p.m. There will be light refreshments afterwards.

Tuesday, Oct. 31
 Middle Cross Missionary Church will hold a Trunk or Treat event from 6-8 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 3
 The Woolwine Methodist Church food truck will

be at the Woolwine VFD from 3-4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 4
 Patrick Springs Pentecostal Holiness Church Food Bank will hold a fundraiser yard sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Table spaces for rent, \$10 for the first table, and \$5 for each additional table. Hot dogs, drinks, and desserts will be sold as well. All proceeds for table rentals and food will go to support the food bank. Anyone interested in setting up should call Kathy Trent at (276) 694-6084.

Monday, Nov. 6
 A BETA RHO Literary Night will be held at Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) at 5:30 p.m. All ages are welcome. Hot dogs, chips, drinks, and cookies will be served.

Tuesday, Nov. 7
 Community coffee at Church of the Living Water, 10 a.m., Scottie Cassell, Jr., Director of EMS, will give new updates.

Ongoing

The Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard meets at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the American Legion Post 105. Interested veterans are welcome to attend.

Fridays in October - The Stuart Farmers' Market is open from 8 a.m. till noon, with locally grown fruits, vegetables, meats, baked items, eggs, crafts and more.

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 patrick-countyquilters@gmail.com.

The Stuart Elementary School Running Club will hit the pavements along the sidewalks in town on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

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

The Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard meets the first Tuesday of every month at the American Legion Post 105 at 7 p.m. Interested veterans are welcome to attend.

Starting Oct. 24, 1:30-2:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, an Introduction to Zen Meditation and Zen Buddhism will be held at the Blue Ridge Regional Library Stuart site.

The Patrick County Parks and Recreation Office is now accepting basketball registration for the 2023 - 2024 school year. Students who are currently in grades K - 7 are eligible to participate in the recreation department's basketball 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, October 27, 2023. Games will begin the second week of November 2023.

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.

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 at 6 p.m. Music gets underway at 7. Food is available.

Annual Pancake Days continue to be a crowd pleaser

Thousands made their way to Meadows of Dan for this year's Pancake Days. Many stood in line outside the Meadows of Dan Community Center to partake in the fare. The Meadows of Dan Ruritan Club and Volunteer Fire Department served up delicious buttermilk and buckwheat pancakes along with sausage and gravy. Pancake lovers from all over enjoyed the food and time spent with friends, both old and new.



**VOTE FOR
 EXPERIENCE, WISDOM,
 & LEADERSHIP
 VOTE FOR
 NANCY TURNER BELCHER
 FOR CLERK OF COURT**



PAID FOR BY NANCY FOR CLERK

Wood

(cont. from page 1)

to address the board.

“Currently, if you want to go speak to the Board of Supervisors, you have to sign in, you have to go speak in the witness box to tell everyone what you want to say. That makes a lot of people feel uncomfortable,” he said.

Wood believes residents should be able to email their supervisors or the administrative assistant and have their emails read at a meeting without them having to be there.

He said he also would push for increased transparency between the county and residents.

“I want you to be able to look at the budget, whether it’s the entire county budget, the school budget, the sheriff, Social Services, any budget that we have, and be able to track basically every dime you pay in taxes and see where it goes,” he said.

Wood added the more transparent the process is, the more people will be willing to participate in the decision-making process.

He also believes the county lacks affordable housing options, especially with the ongoing mountain construction.

“Affordable housing, rent even by the month for smaller homes, you’re looking at \$600-\$700 and up to \$1,000 a month. That’s one of the things that we struggle with as well as medical care and not having access to 24-hour care,” he said.

Wood said the county also needs new businesses to help take some of the tax burden off landowners and homeowners. He believes the county has a lot to offer as far as natural resources, tourism, and opportunities in the school system.

“We have an industrial park that’s ready to be occupied if we

could have a business come in there and occupy that space,” he said.

Wood said he can offer common sense leadership.

“I currently manage about 150-head of cattle, that’s a huge decision-making process. For those who’ve never been involved with it, you’re dealing with fertilizer bills, \$30,000 some years,” and lots of other expenses, he said.

Wood also worked with the Patrick County Future Farmers of America (FFA), and the Virginia Farm Bureau on the local, state, and national levels on decision-making and dealing with budgets.

He also served as a Boy Scout master and worked with numerous people through the agricultural department.

“It all just comes down to being able to look at something and see if

it is the greatest good for the greatest number of people. That’s what we need, to make sure all people in Patrick County are represented on the board of supervisors,” he said.

Wood graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University with a bachelor’s in wildlife science and an M.A. in curriculum and instruction.

He’s been employed by Patrick County Public Schools for 20 years as an agriculture teacher and an FFA advisor. He also owns his own cattle ranch.

Wood is married to his wife, Holly Wood, and they have three children together and a son-in-law. The couple live in the Patrick Springs area.

In his free time, Wood enjoys working with his cattle, wood-working, and helping with the Boy Scouts.

Mickles

(cont. from page 1)

was said, what’s going to be done. Where if it’s just laid out, everybody’s on the same page.”

Mickles believes the county excels in a great sense of pride.

“I think most people who are here have a strong investment in the county and want the county to succeed. I would say across the board, most residents, the majority of residents, are that way,” she said.

But there are other is-

sues. For instance, the county is lacking access to critical medical care.

“We need to find some way to bring some type of revenue into this county. Of course, a hospital would bring in lots of jobs,” she said.

Overall, Mickles feels she would bring a commonsense approach to the board, and since she’s not originally from the county, she has a unique perspective.

“My experience is, I have 10 plus years’ experience as a manager. I

have eight years’ financial experience. I work here at the courthouse. I am familiar with how land transfers work in the county, the taxes that are charged on those,” she said.

Mickles said the big thing is that she is a straight shooter who will bring the commonsense approach of the everyday citizen of Patrick County.

“I’m not a huge landholder here. I’ve got less than two acres, and I think that I represent more of the average Patrick County citizen,” she said.

Mickles has been married to her husband for 15

and a half years. She has a 26-year-old daughter and a 20-year-old stepdaughter.

A graduate of Magna Vista High School, Mickles attended the European campus of Maryland University in Schweinfurt, Germany. She has an associate in science.

When she returned to the United States, Mickles worked at Martinsville Hospital in the pharmacy for three years before transferring into the Emergency Room doing insurance work.

Mickles also ran her own hair salon and still has her cosmetology license. She worked in banking for three and a half years and has been with the courthouse for almost four years.

In her free time, Mickles enjoys playing with her dogs and chickens and recently started to learn how to play the piano.



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by Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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FISH DAY!
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AI in Energy

Over the last several years, we have begun exploring the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its application across a variety of sectors—health care, finance, manufacturing, agriculture, and so on. In the Energy Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, we recently held a hearing examining the ways that AI could be used to benefit our energy sector.

As energy consumption and our standard of living increases decade after decade, we must find new ways to provide Americans with safe, reliable, and affordable energy. AI is being used to support those goals.

We heard from witnesses about how AI is accelerating cutting-edge energy technologies by processing data to aid researchers, while also helping to reduce both cost and time when developing new technologies.

In the oil and gas industry, AI is being used to better process geothermal 3D seismic data and optimize drilling operations. It can increase production in refineries, help manage wells and reservoirs, increase yield, all while finding ways to decrease oil well energy usage, which will in turn bring down costs.

When it comes to electricity, AI could be used by utilities and wholesale market makers to continuously pinpoint when to dispatch power plants and help power plant managers balance supply and demand. It can also monitor utility polls for any issues, order needed parts, or create work orders for when technicians are needed to go into the field to fix something.

However, a drawback to the implementation of AI in our energy sector is that operating AI requires data centers to use massive amounts of power. According to the International Energy Agency, data centers globally used 1–1.3% of global electricity demand in 2022. According to one of our witnesses, Loudoun County, Virginia, would need the equivalent of three large

nuclear plants every year to power new AI enabled data centers.

As AI use grows, so will its electricity demand. With electrical grids already under pressure and stressed for more capacity, and with the Biden Administration determined to eliminate the fossil fuels which stabilize our electrical grid, we will have to find a way to ensure that AI doesn't further strain our grid.

Another challenge is the risk of AI-assisted cyber-attacks. An ever-increasing issue in our world, it will be paramount as we move forward with AI development, that we find meaningful ways to protect our energy sector against this threat.

Medical Devices Must Work

Ten to 15 million medical devices are used by U.S. hospitals and doctor's offices daily to help diagnosis and treat patients.

Unfortunately, some of these medical devices are sold with manufacturer-imposed restrictions on repairs, meaning only the manufacturer itself can make a repair. Articles that I have seen include among those devices CT scanners, EKG machines, MRI machines, and ventilators.

Restrictions on who can repair a medical device can come with potentially deadly consequences. This is especially true in rural areas, like the 9th District of Virginia. In rural areas, having a repair person nearby is less likely. Being forced to use only the manufacturer's representative could mean longer wait times for hospital and doctor's office equipment to be repaired.

If your doctor and/or health care team don't have access to working equipment, they can not properly diagnose your condition or disease. This can lead to catastrophic consequences.

I cannot accept that people could become more ill or risk death because they are unable



to receive help due to repair restrictions. Medical devices save lives. Manufacturers cannot in good conscious stand in the way of the mission to treat people.

That is why I am looking at the concept of allowing independent contractors to be able to repair the equipment for hospitals and doctor's offices who request that service. We are checking with our local hospitals about their needs.

This issue reminds me of my friend, Bill Bradley, who unfortunately passed away in 2017. He started Valley Biomedical Services, to service medical devices in need of repair. Bill started the company working out of a van and grew it into a success, working hard to provide a variety of medical repair services in the Roanoke area and beyond for over 30 years.

Ending manufacturer restrictions could benefit skilled technicians like my friend Bill, while also, and more importantly, providing better access to health care in rural areas.

When facing life or death issues, you should neither have to wait for the repair team to fly in nor have the patient travel to another hospital.

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

Legal Notice

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY TO DECREASE ITS FUEL FACTOR PURSUANT TO § 56-249.6 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA CASE NO. PUR-2023-00156

- Appalachian Power Company ("APCo") has filed an application seeking to decrease its fuel factor from the current factor of 4.319 cents per kilowatt-hour ("¢/kWh") to 4.139¢/kWh, effective for usage on and after November 1, 2023, which will result in an annual net decrease in revenue of approximately \$25 million.
- To mitigate the impact of a fuel cost under-recovery position, APCo is proposing to recover its deferred fuel balance as of October 31, 2023, over two years. If the Company does not recover this balance over a two-year period, the current fuel factor of 4.319¢/kWh would increase to 5.130¢/kWh, which would result in an annual net increase in revenue of approximately \$111,765,155.
- According to APCo, the total proposed fuel factor would decrease the average monthly bill of a residential customer using 1,000 kWh of electricity per month by \$1.80. Without the Company's proposed two-year mitigation, the monthly bill of a residential customer using 1,000 kWh of electricity would increase by \$8.11.
- A Hearing Examiner appointed by the Commission will hold a telephonic hearing in this case on January 17, 2024, at 10 a.m., for the receipt of public witness testimony.
- An evidentiary hearing will also be held on January 17, 2024, at 10 a.m., or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, to receive the testimony and evidence of the Company, any respondents, and Commission Staff.
- Further information about this case is available on the SCC website at: scc.virginia.gov/Case-Information.

On September 14, 2023, Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or "Company") filed with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") an application ("Application") pursuant to § 56-249.6 of the Code of Virginia ("Code") seeking a decrease in its fuel factor. The Company proposes to decrease the current fuel factor of 4.319 cents per kilowatt-hour ("¢/kWh") to 4.139¢/kWh, effective for service rendered November 1, 2023, through October 31, 2024 ("Fuel Year"), which is an annual net decrease in revenue of approximately \$25 million. The Company states that to mitigate the impact of a fuel cost under-recovery position, APCo is proposing to recover its deferred fuel balance as of October 31, 2023, over two years. If the Company does not recover this balance over a two-year period, the current fuel factor of 4.319¢/kWh would increase to 5.130¢/kWh, which is an annual net increase in revenue of approximately \$111,765,155.

The Company's proposed fuel factor consists of both an in-period component and a prior period component. APCo's proposed in-period component is designed to recover its estimated Virginia jurisdictional fuel expenses during the Fuel Year of approximately \$433,839,311, which includes non-incremental costs associated with APCo's wind contracts; a credit for 75% of projected Off System Sales margins; PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. ("PJM"), Load Serving Entity transmission losses; PJM congestion charges; 100% of incremental transmission line loss margins; and Financial Transmission Right revenues. The Company proposes an in-period factor component of 3.148¢/kWh.

The prior-period component is a true-up component designed to recover from customers over a two-year period an estimated under-recovered deferred fuel balance as of October 31, 2023, of \$273,125,395, or \$136,562,698 per year. The Company states that it divided the per-year amount by the projected Virginia jurisdictional energy sales for the Fuel Year to obtain the prior period under-recovery component of 0.991¢/kWh. Without APCo's proposed two-year mitigation, the Company indicates that the prior period under-recovery component would increase to 1.982¢/kWh.

APCo maintains that its proposed fuel factor would decrease the monthly bill of a residential customer using 1,000 kWh of electricity by \$1.80, from \$161.77 to \$159.97. Without the Company's proposed two-year mitigation, and a resulting fuel factor of 5.130¢/kWh, the monthly bill of a residential customer using 1,000 kWh of electricity would increase by \$8.11, from \$161.77 to \$169.88.

The Commission entered an Order Establishing 2023-2024 Fuel Factor Proceeding ("Order") that, among other things, directed the Company to place its proposed fuel factor decrease into effect on an interim basis for service rendered on and after November 1, 2023. The Order further scheduled public hearings on APCo's Application. A hearing for the receipt of testimony from public witnesses on the Company's Application shall be convened telephonically at 10 a.m. on January 17, 2024, with no public witness present in the Commission's courtroom. On or before January 10, 2024, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission in three ways: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission's website at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting; (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov; or (iii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting.

Beginning at 10 a.m. on January 17, 2024, the Hearing Examiner will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above.

On January 17, 2024, at 10 a.m., or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Hearing Examiner will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Application from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission Staff.

To promote administrative efficiency and timely service of filings upon participants, the Commission has directed the electronic filing of testimony and pleadings, unless they contain confidential information, and has required electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

An electronic copy of public version of the Company's Application may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: James G. Ritter, Esquire, American Electric Power Service Corporation, 3 James Center, 1051 East Cary Street, Suite 1100, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or jritter@aep.com. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies from the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

On or before January 10, 2024, any interested person may file comments on the Application by following the instructions on the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00156.

On or before December 1, 2023, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Company. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Rules of Practice of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice"), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00156.

On or before December 13, 2023, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served on the Commission's Staff, the Company, and all other respondents simultaneous with its filing. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Rules of Practice, including 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00156.

Any documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, except as modified by the Commission's Order, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Rules of Practice.

The Commission's Rules of Practice, the public version of the Company's Application, the Commission's Order, and other documents filed in this case may be viewed on the Commission's website at: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY

Patrick Springs man held with no bond

A Patrick Springs man was arrested on Thursday on several charges of alleged sexual crimes against a juvenile, according to Patrick County Sheriff's Lt. Steve Austin.

After an extensive investigation, Austin said Richard Clay Fitzgerald, 35, of Hardie Stone Road, was charged with two counts each aggravated sexual battery and indecent liberties with a minor, and one count of solicitation of child pornography.

Austin said, "the investigation was initiated when our office received a complaint alleging that" a juvenile received an inappropriate message, via social media. "It was discovered that message was received and handled in a different jurisdiction."

After continued investigation, Patrick County Sheriff's investigators Faith Hubbard, Jason Kruse, and Oscar Tejada determined a man was allegedly involved in having inappropriate sexual misconduct with the same juvenile, several years ago in Patrick County.

"There is no statute of limitations when it comes to sexual crimes on a juvenile," Austin said, and added "we take these allegations very seriously and investigate them thoroughly."

Fitzgerald is being held without bond in the Patrick County jail

The investigation is ongoing and additional charges are likely, Austin said.

If you or any one you know has any information about this case, please call our office at (276) 694-3161, or Faith Hubbard at (276) 222-0460.



Richard Clay Fitzgerald

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Board hears broadband update



RiverStreet Networks Director of Engineering Zach Church presented an update on the broadband project at the October 16 meeting.



Steve Terry addressed the board.

By Taylor Boyd

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors heard a broadband update at its Monday, October 16 meeting from RiverStreet Networks and Appalachian Electric Power (AEP) representatives. Representatives from Charter-Spectrum did not attend the meeting.

Clayton Kendrick, chairman and of the Mayo River District, requested the update, and interim County Administrator Tim Hall made the arrangements.

Amanda Cox, of AEP, said the 2022 Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) program is for universal coverage for Patrick, Henry, and Franklin counties.

"We've also got RiverStreet Networks as your last mile provider and Appalachian Power coming in as utility leverage," she said.

Cox said utility is part of the project in part because the service territory has rough terrain, sparse populations in some areas, and power lines running all through the area sometimes up to the transformer with the fiber lines.

"So, we're trying to penetrate a little deeper into the residential neighborhoods because we don't live closer together. We're spread out in rural areas, and our whole service territory pretty much looks like that," she said.

AEP also uses dual-purpose fiber for its internal communications, Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), automatic switching, access

points, and other things of that nature, and "then lease the dark fiber to the last mile provider to provide connectivity," Cox said, adding the utility leverage is also housed in AEP's power zone.

"So, if there's any kind of outage we're going to get in there and work with your provider," she said. "We're going to be making repairs to the electric service and to the fiber in our power zone."

With the utility leverage, Cox said AEP drops right down into RiverStreet, who then connects to the homes.

"So, you're going to skip a lot of that engineering, a lot of that construction. We'll come in and do pole replacements on the backside. So, you're really going to see some movement on this project," she said.

The project is 380 miles in Patrick, Henry, and Franklin counties and will serve approximately 12,000.

Just on the AEP side, Cox said it's a project worth \$57 million.

"So, that really tells you the type of build that it takes to connect some of these rural areas. In Patrick alone, there are 144 miles," she said.

AEP won approval for the project on August 3. "We've been having bi-weekly meetings with RiverStreet, their engineering team, everything is going right along. According to our schedule we're set to start construction" at the six-month mark, she said.

Cox added AEP is also looking at some of its preexisting fiber in the areas to hopefully have some faster connections to some of the customers.

Zach Church, RiverStreet's Director of Engineering, said the VATI 2023 award locations include 3,424 locations, 116 route miles, for a total cost of about \$8 million.

"Overall locations that are touched right now is 8,376 and about 636 miles of fiber is what we'll be doing. That's taking off from areas that Amanda and AEP are able to build and extending on out," he said.

Church estimates this will be about \$50 million. He said RiverStreet is looking to start construction during the first quarter of 2024.

The engineering groups have been meeting and "discussing priority routes where we can get those guys started building fiber early to also connect some" of the facilities "as well as those portions coming in probably from our Stokes network so we can extend into Patrick and then work to tie in Franklin and Henry as well," he said.

Church said the companies are trying to start all three counties at the same time so there's movement everywhere.

"Once we get those priorities, we'll start setting up to know which routes and roads will be going through there," he said, adding the next steps include securing Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)

funding for the VATI 2023 match and submitting a notice of application to the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for a possible VATI 2024 application.

Steve Terry, of the Patrick County Broadband Committee, said broadband projects are believed by many experts to be one of the biggest boosts to rural economies and quality of life.

"The supervisors reconstituted the broadband committee at the request of a group of citizens, and we began meeting monthly six years ago in November. Starting with our very first meeting, we scheduled presentations from the broadband consultant or internet service provider each month for most of the first year," he said.

Terry said RiverStreet made a presentation at the March 2019 meeting and AEP presented at the May 2019 meeting. After reviewing proposals sent in as a response to a Request for Proposals (RFP), he said the committee unanimously recommended the county select RiverStreet as its partner.

Terry said the broadband committee also requests that citizens be updated monthly on the status of these critical projects.

"Broadband availability is a huge factor in many decisions impacting the existing businesses and homeowners as well as those considering moving here," he said.

Signs should help to reduce traffic congestion at the speedway

With a weekend full of racing, drivers should expect an increased volume of traffic in the vicinity of Martinsville Speedway through Sunday, October 29.

For the race being held on Sunday, October 29, the Virginia Department of Transportation encourages race fans driving to and from Martinsville Speedway to follow the recommended traffic patterns listed below and as posted on signs and message boards.

VDOT will place many signs and changeable message boards throughout the region to assist travelers. Vehicular and pedestrian traffic will be heavy. Traffic is

being routed to the speedway in certain patterns to minimize overall congestion as much as possible. Watch for the speed limit to reduce gradually from 65 mph to 35 mph on the Route 220/Route 58 Bypass as you approach the speedway.

- From Roanoke and areas north of Martinsville: Race fans traveling south on U.S. 220 should continue on the U.S. 220/U.S. 58 Bypass past the speedway interchange and turn right onto the access road that leads into the speedway. The entrance is located one mile east of the U.S. 220 interchange and may provide easier

access. Signs are in place designating the entrance to the speedway.

- From Danville and areas east of Martinsville: Motorists on the U.S. 58 Bypass should follow signs directing them to use the track's back gate. This entrance is located off the bypass, east of the track.
- From Greensboro and areas south of Martinsville: Motorists should watch for electronic message boards and obey police directing traffic. Through traffic should use the left lane.
- From Stuart and areas west of Martinsville: Motorists should stay on U.S. 58 east and follow

signs and message boards to the track.

As drivers exit the races, VDOT reminds drivers of the U.S. 220 Business bridge replacement currently underway. It is located over Reed Creek about 0.4 mile east of the U.S. 220 and U.S. 220 Business intersection. The bridge is reduced to one lane of travel in both directions and may cause delays due to the increase from race traffic.

Those attending the race should closely follow directional information and plan to arrive early and expect heavy traffic and delays throughout the area.

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Board of Supervisors
Peters Creek District

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Support establishment of Critical Medical Care for Patrick County

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Virginia's Fall Fire Season Begins

The fall fire season has arrived, and from now through November, the Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) is urging residents to be extra careful when burning yard debris, enjoying a campfire or backyard fire pit.

Low humidity and windy conditions, along with dry grasses and fallen leaves, combine this time of year to create favorable conditions for wildfires to spark and spread quickly. During years of dry summers — such as this one — wildfires are even more common.

“Most of Virginia had a very dry summer which causes leaves to fall earlier,” said DOF Chief of Fire and Emergency Response John Miller. “Unfortunately, these factors only improve conditions for wildfires to occur. However, with basic fire safety measures, we can stop most wildfires before they start. It’s just like Smokey Bear says, ‘Only You Can Prevent Wildfires.’”

In Virginia, more than 75% of wildfires are human caused, with escaped debris burns being the leading cause. DOF has wildland firefighters assigned to every county across the Commonwealth who

work with local fire departments to protect people, property and our natural resources. While the statewide 4 p.m. burn law is only in effect in the spring, be sure to always check with local fire officials in your area for possible regional restrictions or bans.

Take these simple precautions to dramatically reduce the likelihood of a debris burn escaping your control:

- *Avoid burning on dry, windy days

- *Keep your burn pile small

- *Have a rake or shovel and water hose on hand

- *Have a phone ready to call 911 if a fire escapes your control

- *Stay with your fire until it’s completely out (drown, stir, ensure it’s cool)

- *Consider a “green” alternative to burning yard debris: compost your organic yard waste for your garden or yard

To learn more about the fall fire season in Virginia visit DOF’s website and visit Smokey Bear’s website for fire prevention tips (including safe yard debris burning) and videos.

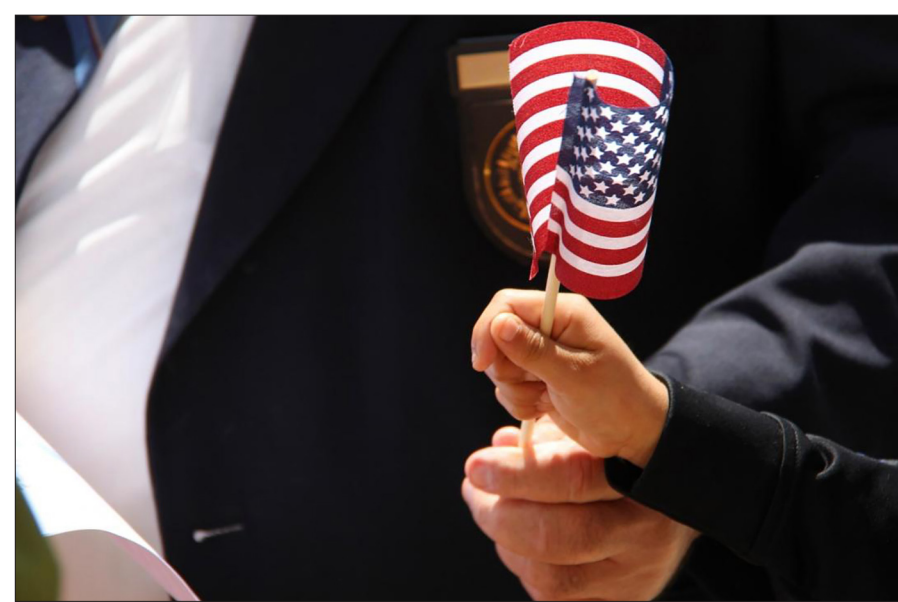
Annual Veterans Day Lunch set a SCC

To honor and remember local veterans, Surry Community College will be hosting its annual Veterans Day Luncheon on Friday, Nov. 3, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event is open and free to all veterans, and it will be held in the Grand Hall of the Shelton-Badgett North Carolina Center for Viticul-

ture & Enology on Surry’s campus in Dobson. Food will be served at 11:30 a.m. with the displaying of flags and entertainment to follow.

If you’d like more information, please contact Joseph McDougal, SCC Veterans Affairs and Financial Aid Specialist, at (336) 386-3245 or mcdougaljr@surry.edu.



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Warner, others call on Biden for strengthened border security

Citing increases in deaths due to drug overdoses, U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner and several of their Democrat colleagues are among those calling on the Biden Administration for additional U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents and increased processing and screening capacity at ports of entry, as well as acquiring non-invasive inspection technology to stop drug smugglers before their fentanyl hits American fentanyl.

“We urge you to prioritize additional funding, resources, and innovative strategies to strengthen the security of our southwest border and address the multiple, overlapping challenges there,” Warner, D-Alexandria, and his colleagues wrote to Pres. Joe Biden last week.

“We have long supported increasing funding for comprehensive measures to enhance border enforcement, management, and security. The situation at our border is complex, and it will take continued leadership and funding to stem the flow of illicit drugs like fentanyl, smuggling, and transnational criminal organizations that operate along our border,” the letter stated.

Also noted is the increase in overdose deaths, “particularly among young people. In total, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated that more than 112,000 people died from a drug overdose between May 2022 and May 2023, with fentanyl and other synthetic opioids causing the vast majority of overdoses,” the letter stated.

Additionally, “a new analysis reported in September 2023, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Wisconsin, Arizona, Nevada, and Virginia were among the 37 states in which accidental drug overdoses were the largest cause of death for people under 40-years-old in 2022. In Montana, accidental overdoses of young people under 40 increased by 121% from 2018 to 2022,” the letter stated.

It adds the increasing rates of overdose deaths “are clearly being driven, in part, by fentanyl trafficking across our border.”

From FY 2019 to FY 2022, CBP seizures of fentanyl nearly tripled. So far in FY 2023, CBP has already seized over 25,000 pounds of fentanyl. In March, it was reported that CBP seized more than 21 million fentanyl tablets in the Nogales, AZ port of entry over the previous five months—more than the number of tablets seized during the entire previous year.

Highlighting the complex situation that CBP must navigate when seizing fentanyl, officials have indicated that individuals

are smuggling pills inside seat cushions, car batteries, metal walkers, and even hollowed-out bicycle frames. CBP data also has shown that drugs are overwhelmingly being smuggled through U.S. ports of entry—particularly in Arizona and California—and “we must do more to ensure that our CBP Officers have the funding, tools, and technology necessary to be able to stop this surge of fentanyl into our country,” it added.

“Strengthening our southwest border is not only vital to our national security, but also our public health,” Warner and the others wrote. “To achieve this, we must prioritize additional funding for the Department of Homeland Security for its critical border security operations, including funding construction and infrastructure improvements at our ports of entry. We also urge you to invest funding to hire additional CBP Officers, increase processing and screening capacity at ports of entry along the border, engage in a wide range of counter-drug activities, and acquire additional non-invasive inspection technology to substantially increase the number of passenger cars and cargo that are scanned at the border.”

“This border security technology will provide CBP Officers with more tools to support their mission and more frequently interdict fentanyl and other illicit drugs. These types of technology and resources will provide CBP with enhanced capabilities to detect the transport of illicit drugs, contraband, invasive species, and other dangers in inbound and outbound cargo at parts of entry,” it added.

For years, we have voted to enact additional funding to address the complex challenges at our southwest border by focusing on smart security measures and enhanced technology. We continue to support strong investments in border security measures that will keep our Nation safer and increase the capacity, personnel, and technology that are available to enhance the security of our border,” the letter concluded.

Specifically, the senators are pushing for additional CBP agents and increased processing and screening capacity at ports of entry, as well as acquiring non-invasive inspection technology to stop drug smugglers before their fentanyl hits American fentanyl.

In addition to Sens. Warner and Casey, the letter was signed by Sens. Mark Kelly (D-AZ), Jon Tester (D-MT), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), and Jacky Rosen (D-NV).

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Get Ready to Welcome Old Man Winter Into Your Garden

By Robin Reichelt
Patrick County Master Gardener

It's October and soon Old Man Winter will be arriving. Are you prepared? I don't mean is your house winterized or have you pulled out your winter clothes from the attic, but is your garden ready for the cold blast we are about to get?

As we don't have a delete button for winter it is time to do a little work to prepare your garden for winter. By preparing your garden you will be protecting it from the potential harm the cold can do to your plants. Things like watering, fertilizing, pruning, cleaning up, and mulching will make the difference between a garden that just survives and one that thrives come spring.

Tea Time
 Winter is my excuse for drinking more tea and like me the plants need more fluids in the winter. A major cause of winter damage is a lack of water.

Plants need water even through the winter months. Deep watering so that there is moisture below the frost line will help to ensure your plants survival.

If you have clay soil that means slow watering over a longer period so that the water is absorbed.

Remember that if the winter is drier than usual, you will need to water once a month to maintain your plants.

Fertilizing? Maybe So
 Most of your garden should have already been fertilized during the spring or late summer when the plants actively use the nutrients the fertilizer provides.

However, if your plants are looking a little stressed or your soil test indicates a deficiency, then you can do a fall application of fertilizer.

You would apply a low nitrogen fertilizer after the first frost but before the first freeze. This will help prevent winter damage.

Pruning: Yes & No
 Winter is when you want to do most of your pruning. Remove any dead, broken, insect-infested or diseased limbs.

Don't put these limbs in your compost as many diseases and insects can survive the winter.

Don't remove limbs from newly planted trees. Save the drastic pruning for the next winter.

Cleaning? Not So Much
 Most gardens are spent by this time of year. Many people go through their gardens cutting back all the perennials. Cutting back should be kept to a minimum. This is not necessary unless the plant is diseased.

Leaving the stalks and seed heads is both beneficial to the plants and the wild life. Clean up but leave as much of the plant as you can (making sure to remove infested debris).

This is also a good time to weed. The weed may look like it is dead, but its roots are not.

Once the garden has been cleaned up you can see which plants are overgrown and need dividing. This is a good time to divide and plant perennials, before the frost.

Mulch - Later
 Mulching is like putting on that winter sweater that covers you up and keeps you warm. It covers up the soil and helps to maintain soil temperature.

But a frost/thaw cycle can be more damaging to your plants than a solid winter blast, The mulch may warm up the ground so much that it promotes plant growth. So, wait until the first frost to mulch. 3 to 4 inch layer of mulch also helps to keep your plants from heaving up out of the ground.

Avoid piling your mulch volcano style around trees. This promotes insect infestations and may even allow them to over winter. It also can promote rot.

With a little work in the fall and then in the winter, you can thwart Old Man Winter and have a thriving garden in the spring. Remember: each season brings its own joy in the garden. To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake, you have to stand out in the cold.

Walker, Jennifer (2019) SJU Expert Offers Tips on Winterizing Your Garden. <https://www.sju.edu>

Sanchez, Nicole (2020) Five Garden Winterizing Tips. <https://extension.oreganstate.edu>

Master Gardener Program (2020) Winterizing Your Yard. <http://s3.wp.wsu.edu>.

Operation Christmas Child National Collection Week is Nov. 13-20

Get ready for an incredible chance to make a global impact and bring boundless joy to children in need. The Operation Christmas Child program, orchestrated with sheer enthusiasm by Samaritan's Purse, is already in full swing. But guess what? It's not too late for you, your church, your organization, your family, or even just you, as an individual, to dive headfirst into this heartwarming mission!

Operation Christmas Child isn't just any program; it's a heartwarming, life-changing experience! It's about delivering tremendous joy and the life-transforming message of Jesus Christ to children around the world, all through the magic of gift-filled shoeboxes. These shoeboxes are more than just gifts; they're an embodiment of God's immense love for each child. For many of these youngsters, it's their very first gift, a moment they'll cherish forever! Imagine the impact.

With the help of our dedicated local church partners, these shoebox gifts serve as an amazing opportunity to share the Gospel in a way that's fun and engaging for kids. It's about planting seeds of hope and faith in young hearts, and you can be a part of it.

Samaritan's Purse has been doing this incredible work for years, and the numbers speak for themselves. Since 1993, we've reached over 209 million children in more than 170 countries and territories. That's an astonishing number of smiles, all made possible through your generosity. Not only do these gifts bring immense joy, but they also convey a powerful message of God's love, creating a bond that transcends borders.

But here's the best part - YOU can be a part of this heartwarming journey! You can put together these special shoebox gifts, whether on your own, with a group of friends, or even online. And when your boxes are ready, it's as simple as taking them to the nearest drop-off location. There are multiple locations throughout the region, and we've made it super convenient for you.

Get ready to be part of a global movement that spreads love, joy, and hope to children in need. Your involvement can make a world of difference, and the smiles you help create will warm your heart. Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to make the world a brighter place for these children. Check out the drop-off locations and schedules below, and let's make this holiday season unforgettable for kids around the world.

For more information, including How to Pack a Shoebox (operation-christmas-child/)

pack-ashoe-box/), visit samaritanspurse.org/occ (<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/>).

Please contact Penny Denny (276) 340-8984 or Matt Tatum (276) 226-0805 with any questions or to learn how to get involved locally.

Shoebox Drop off Locations in Henry County:

Bassett - Blackberry Baptist Church, 3241 Stones Dairy Road Bassett:

Mon., Nov. 13, 5 - 7 p.m.; Tues., Nov. 14, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Wed., Nov. 15, 5 - 8 p.m.; Thurs., Nov. 16, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Fri., Nov. 17: 5 - 7 p.m.; Sat., Nov. 18: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Sun., Nov. 19: 1- 3 p.m.; Mon., Nov. 20, 8 - 10 a.m.

Collinsville - Stone Memorial Christian Church 3030 Virginia Avenue Collinsville:

Mon., Nov. 13, 4 - 6 p.m.; Tues., Nov. 14, 4 - 6 p.m., Wed., Nov. 15, 4 - 6 p.m.; Thurs., Nov. 16, 4 - 6 p.m.; Fri., Nov. 17, 4 - 6 p.m.; Sat., Nov. 18, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.; Sun., Nov. 19, 4 - 6 p.m.; Mon., Nov. 20, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Martinsville - Chatham Heights Baptist Church, 1235 Chatham Heights Road, Martinsville:

Mon., Nov. 13, 3 - 5 p.m.; Tues., Nov. 14, 3 - 5 p.m.; Wed., Nov. 15, 3 - 5 p.m.; Thurs., Nov. 16, 3 - 5 p.m.; Fri., Nov. 17, 3 - 5 p.m.; Sat., Nov. 18, 1 - 4 p.m.; Sun., Nov. 19, 1 - 4 p.m.; Mon, Nov. 20, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Ridgeway - Horsepasture Christian Church, 1146 Horsepasture Price Road, Ridgeway:

Mon., Nov. 13, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.; Tues., Nov. 14, 5 - 7 p.m.; Wed., Nov. 15, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.; Thurs., Nov. 16, 5 - 7 p.m.; Fri., Nov. 17, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.; Sat., Nov. 18, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.; Sun., Nov. 19, 5 - 7 p.m.; Mon., Nov. 20, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Shoebox Drop off Locations in Patrick County:

Stuart - Nettle Ridge Church, 70 Nettle Ridge Loop, Stuart:

Mon., Nov. 13, 5 - 7 p.m.; Tues., Nov. 14, 4 - 6 p.m.; Wed., Nov. 15, 7 - 9 p.m.; Thurs., Nov. 16, 5 - 7 p.m.; Fri., Nov. 17, 5 - 7 p.m.; Sat., Nov. 18, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.; Sun., Nov. 19, 1 - 5 p.m.; Mon., Nov. 20, 8 - 10 a.m.

Minnies Chapel, 161 Minnies Chapel Loop, Stuart:

Mon., Nov. 13, 6 - 8 p.m.; Tues., Nov. 14, 6 - 8 p.m.; Wed., Nov. 15, 6 - 8 p.m.; Thurs., Nov. 16, 6 - 8 p.m.; Fri., Nov. 17, 6 - 8 p.m.; Sat., Nov. 18, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Sun., Nov. 19, 1 - 4 p.m.; Mon., Nov. 20, 8 - 10 a.m.

There also are drop off locations in Franklin County. Call Denny (276) 340-8984 or Tatum (276) 226-0805 for additional information.

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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

Super Crossword

Answers

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Blue Ridge Rising Two-State Summit slated for Dec. 5 & 6 in Blowing Rock

Community members from the Blue Ridge Parkway region are invited to attend the Blue Ridge Rising Two-State Summit on Dec. 5 and 6 at Meadowbrook Inn in Blowing Rock, N.C. The event is an opportunity to help shape a strategic action plan for the 29 counties that border the country's most visited national park.

Hosted by the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, the summit is the culmination of a nearly year-long planning effort designed to engage and unite Parkway-adjacent counties in North Carolina and Virginia to determine strategies that will benefit the entire region, with an emphasis on travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation.

"Blue Ridge Rising is a remarkable initiative that embodies the collective spirit and vision of our partners along the Parkway. It is an honor to be involved in this endeavor, as we work together to shape a brighter future for the Blue Ridge Parkway and all of its neighboring communities," said Corrina Ruffieux, Executive Director of Haywood County Tourism Development Authority.

Attendees will hear highlights and examples from the emerging Blue Ridge Rising Action Plan and connect with people from all across the Blue Ridge Rising corridor to foster regional unity and growth.

Summit highlights include:
 *An opening dinner and keynote

address by Dan Chapman, author of A Road Running Southward, Following John Muir's Journey through an Endangered Land. Chapman will highlight the challenges and possible solutions to protecting the region's natural bounty.

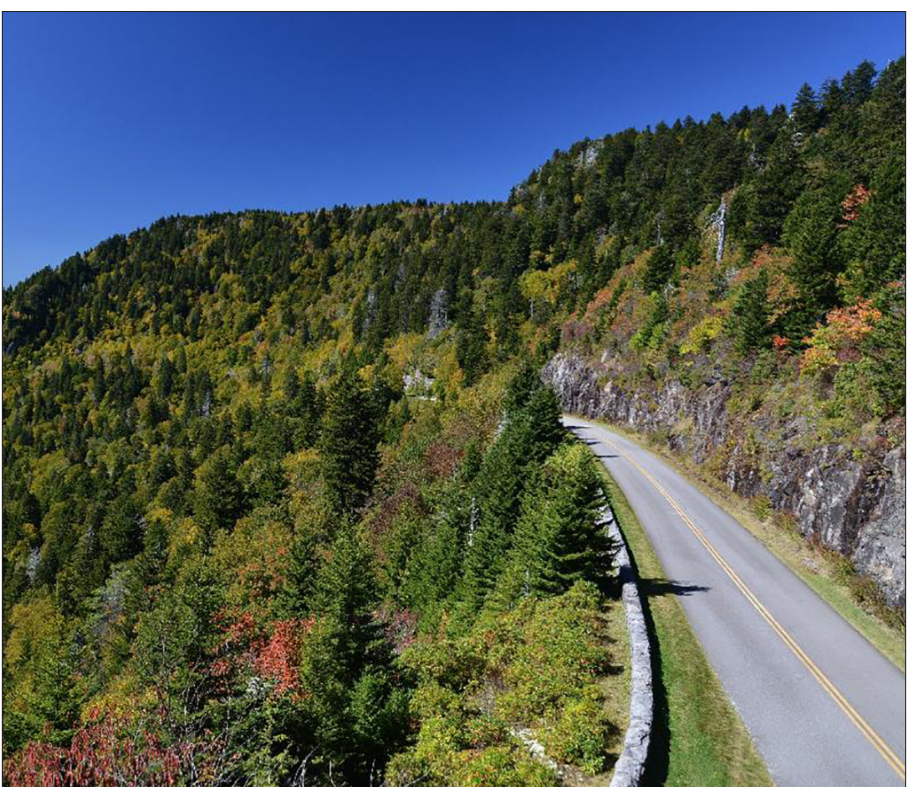
*A morning keynote by Eric Eikenberg, CEO, The Everglades Foundation, who will share highlights and lessons learned from taking a regional approach to saving Florida's Everglades.

*The Blue Ridge Sampler & Social, a celebratory evening to enjoy regional fare and engage in conversations about the future of the region.

Early bird registration (before

Nov. 1) is \$135. Registration between Nov. 1 and Dec. 1 is \$150. To learn more and sign up, visit BlueRidgeRising.com.

Blue Ridge Rising is organized by the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, with primary funding provided by the U.S. Economic Development Administration. The Foundation is the nonprofit fundraising partner of the Parkway, helping to ensure cultural and historical preservation, natural resource protection, educational outreach, and visitor enjoyment. Since 1997, the organization has provided more than \$22 million in support for the national park. To learn more, visit BRP Foundation.org.



A view of the Blue Ridge Parkway from Devil's Courthouse Overlook at milepost 422.4. (By A. Armstrong, courtesy of Blue Ridge Parkway/National Park Service)



Blue Ridge Parkway Cars: Visitors travel along the Blue Ridge Parkway. Photography by A. Armstrong (Courtesy of Blue Ridge Parkway/National Park Service)



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Leaders in Bedford County, Va., participate in one of 30 Blue Ridge Rising meetings held in Parkway-adjacent counties earlier this year.

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On the road with Dellenback Hill

Mary Dellenback Hill, who visited the beautiful Sunflower Maze at Doe Run Farms in Ararat recently, said the farm attracted "lots of children playing on the 30 x 30 big bounce pad, and I could hear that buzz of kids having fun and giving out that joyful sound. There was an apple launcher, bowling, swings, a slide, a corn hole game, and a Pick Your Own sunflower field" along with "picnic tables to enjoy, popcorn, nachos cheese, bottled water, and assorted sodas." Also, on hand were "lots of ap-

ples, beautiful color (orange) pumpkins, and sunflower heads to make your own birdfeed. Fresh cut flowers in vases for sale, and I saw the tractor coming back from a hayride, with more kids and adults having fun on a beautiful sunny day in Ararat," she said.

One of the owners "and manager of the farm, Jeanie Puckett, spoke with me as we went out into the maze, so I could get photos with the blooms facing toward the sun," Dellenback Hill said. "But to my surprise, all the honeybees were

busy getting the nectar, going from one sunflower to the next. Then I noticed the big, tall sunflower that had only one large bee sitting on it."

She surmised that perhaps the bee in question was a bumble bee, "saying I'm the biggest, that is why I chose the biggest, tallest sunflower."

Dellenback Hill said upon her exit from the maze, she met a family taking a break in the shade of the tent.

"I learned they were from Fort

Lauderdale, FL., and the State of Israel," Dellenback Hill Said. "They requested I not take their photo, adding they had visited the farm last year and would return next year. They may visit my cabin in the woods, which is close to the Ararat River. We discussed the names Ararat and Noah in Israel, and exchanged phone numbers before they left to catch their flights."

The farm is located at 214 Mari-gold Lane, Ararat. Call (276) 251-8287 for additional information.



The large sunflower is pictured with its guest bee. (Photos by Mary Dellenback Hill, Rep, Dan River District, Patrick County Tourism)



The Sunflower Maze at Doe Run Farms in Ararat. The Virginia Grown logo is pictured in the foreground, and the farm offers flowers in vases, an official 2023 T-shirt and other goodies.



A close-up photo of the T-shirt celebrating the 2023 season at Doe Run Farms in Ararat.



A 'Thank You' sign to visitors.

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WOOLWINE, VA

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Contact Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email Gallimore.Matt@gmail.com. You can also contact Realtor Boogie Dehart at 276-952-5061 or email BoogieD@yahoo.com



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