

Vol. 148 No. 8 Website: www.theenterprise.net STUART, VIRGINIA WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024

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



Scott Wickham, CPA, CFE, of Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates (RFC), presented the county's audit for the year ended June 30. 2023.

Audit shows county's finances 'much improved'

By Taylor Boyd

clean report on its year ended June which is the best opinion that you 30, 2023, audit at the February 12 Board of Supervisor meeting.

Scott Wickham, CPA, CFE, of Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates was the Gas Report on State Com-(RFC), said three reports are issued pliance and Gas Requirements. for the audit every year.

ditors' Report which speaks to the ing procurement, "it was a clean number and financial statements of report, and no items were noted the county and the Patrick County there." School Board.

"The county and the school board Patrick County received a good, received an unmodified opinion, can get. That means the numbers are fairly accurate," he said.

Wickham said the second report Aside from a state noncompliance The first is the Independent Au- finding that regarded school paint-

(See Audit p.3)

Community invited to Robotics annual open house

inviting the community to attend its annual end of season celebration, set for Thursday February 29, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the PC Rocket Robotics lab, located in uptown Stuart, 137 North Main Street. The front lab entrance is located beside Tom's Barber Shop on Main Street and will be marked. FIRST Tech Challenge game, Cen-A handicap accessible entrance is also available at the backside of the building.

enzie Harris, Abigail Lavender, Jake

The PC Rocket Robotics team is Bryant, Peter McCann and Elizabeth McCann.

> There is limited availability for new team members in the upcoming season. Interested students in the 8th - 12th grade should attend the open lab and complete an application.

This year's team competed in the terstage. Each season, the game is released the first week of September and the team then begins designing Eight members were on the team and programming the robot to comthis season - Evan Farmer, John Da- pete in competitions that take place vid McCann, Hunter Meade, Mack- in December/January. This year's

(See Robotics p.3)



PC Robotics Team members this season are pictured left to right: Elizabeth McCann, Abigail Lavender, Jake Bryant, Hunter Meade, Peter McCann, John David McCann, Mackenzie Harris, Evan Farmer. (Contributed photos)

Citing NDA, officials decline to provide spreadsheet, EDA works to obtain grant for environmental study

By Staff Reports

Officials with Foresight Hospital and Health Systems declined in emails last year between the to provide a copy of a spreadsheet detailing the company's expenses for the hospital project. Joe Hylak-Reinholtz, CFO and general counsel for Foresight, said the (EDA) is working towards conspreadsheet is among the documents included in a nondisclosure at the former hospital site, accordagreement (NDA).

Dr. Sameer Suhail M.D., the

tions to Hylak-Reinholtz.

The spreadsheet was referenced company, county officials and others.

Meanwhile, the county's Economic Development Authority ducting an environmental study ing to a release from the county.

The county is in the process of owner of Foresight, referred ques- applying for a Brownfield plan-

ning grant and Brownfield grant reuse efforts," the release stated. extension to pay for the study.

A brownfield is a property, "such as the former hospital site," which would pose "unique challenges due to hazardous materials, pollution, or contaminants. It is standard practice when a locality is approached about purchasing one of these properties that due diligence, including environmental studies, are conducted to inform risk," County Administrator Beth any potential redevelopment or

"Localities can also perform these studies with the permission of the property owner if they don't intend to purchase the property, and provide these studies to a prospective buyer as a recruitment tool," it added.

The need for an environmental study also was "to better understand Patrick County's financial (See Hospital p. 11)

Poor Farmer's Market to celebrate 40 years

By Taylor Boyd and Debbie Hall Poor Farmer's Market Old Fashion Country Store, and a staple of the Meadows of Dan community, is putting the finishing touches on an event that has been years in the making -acelebration of its 40th year in business.

"As of March 1st, 2024, Poor Farmers Market has been open 365 consecutive days a year for forty years. That is 14,600 consecutive days having never closed in 40 years except when the power was out," Feleica Shelor, owner, wrote in a series of excerpts on social media detailing the journey to the upcoming milestone celebration.

The event is set for Sunday, March 3, from 2-4 p.m. at the store, with live music, a Trivia Game and prizes at 3 p.m., a pinata for youngsters, drawings for gift cards, and other goodies, leading up to the grand prize - a weekend get-away at Poor Farmer's Cabins.

produce on the side of the road at Lovers Leap with her grandmother.

tourists, so it was an easy transition from doing that to coming here," she years after striking her agreement said of the brick and mortar space



Felecia Shelor, the owner of Poor Farmer's Market Old Fashion Country Store, is pictured at the market.

Shelor started her business selling she began renting in 1984 from Larry Hutchens, of L.E Hutchens Inc.

"I rented this building from him, "All my life, I've sold produce to and he rented it to me in order for me to sell gas for him," she said. Now, 40 (See Poor Farmer's Market p. 14)



Clark Gas & Oil President Blair Clark gave checks to non-profit organizations in Patrick County that are dedicated to helping others.

Business spreads love with donations

By Taylor Boyd

Clark Gas & Oil donated \$59,000 to local non-profit organizations during its traditional giving back to the community event held on February 14.

Blair Clark, president, said the business began the practice of reinvesting in the communities it serves more than 20 years ago.

"We're part of the community, and we want to give back to the

community. Our parents, B and Coates Clark, raised us that way," he said.

Clark said he and his sister Anna Lester, make up the third generation of the Clark family. "So, we've just continued on with our parents' legacy. We feel we're blessed with business; we want to give it back to the community."

While the family has donated a (See Clark Gas & Oil p.11)

raculous Homecoming



Lauren Worley and her family wave to those standing along their route. (Photos by Pat Delaney)

she suffered severe, life-threatening injuries in a Dec. 16 car crash. Her boyfriend, Micah Underwood, of Floyd, also was injured in the crash that allegedly was caused by a drunk driver.

First responder escorts from the Patrick County Sheriff's Office and the Patrick Springs Volunteer Fire Department led the

Lauren Worley returned to her entourage that included Lauren, home in Patrick County Friday, a Patrick County High School senearly two months to the day after nior, and her parents, Chris and Mandy Worley, to their Woolwine home.

> Spectators gathered in several areas along the route in celebration, including PCHS students who held banners and signs of welcome. Elementary school students also participated in a range of activities to welcome the family.

> > (See Homecoming p.15)

A New Take on an Old Scam

involves a criminal getting hold of one of your checks and forging the payee and the amount. Usually this is done by "washing" the check with chemicals to remove the real information you have written on it. Today, with access to new technologies, criminals are "cooking" checks by creating fake versions of real checks using computer programs. These "cooked" checks can be manipulated digitally and either printed or deposited electronically, saving the crook a lot of mess and hassle.

One of the oldest scams around you send checks. If you use your checkbook to pay bills via mail, how you send those bills is the key to staying safe. Rather than dropping the bills in your mailbox and flipping up the flag, take them to the post office and drop them off inside. A criminal can't wash or cook a check they don't physically have, so taking this extra step to safeguard your mail can protect your bank account in the long run.

Report scams to local law enforcement. For help from AARP, call 1-877-908-3360 or visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at The best way to protect against www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork.

these scams is to be careful how

Broadband projects to receive additional funds

fith, R-Salem, announced that the West Piedmont Planning District Commission Universal Broadband creasingly digital age." Project.

This project plans to install 101 miles of fiber, which will ensure service is available at 3,424 locations around Patrick County.

"The \$700,000 awarded by the ARC will assist in the expansion of broadband services to unserved and sources.

U.S. Congressman Morgan Grif- underserved areas of Patrick County," said Griffith. "Once completed, Appalachian Regional Commission this project will provide access to (ARC) has awarded \$700,000 to 3,424 homes and businesses in Pat-Patrick County, Virginia, for the rick County, greatly improving the quality of life of residents in this in-

> According to ARC, this project will result in 3,312 new residential connections, 102 new business connections, and 10 new community anchor connections. Total project funding is \$7,544,000 when combining ARC, state, local and private

Dr. Seuss Birthday **Celebration to be held** at Reynolds Homestead



Julie Walters Steele (at right), director of the Reynolds Homestead, reads a story to volunteer Cat in the Hat Mia Waddell (from left) and kids Etta Owens, Louisa Straith, and Rhiannon Martin during last year's birthday celebration for Dr. Seuss at the homestead's Community Engagement Center. Photo by Diane Deffenbaugh for Virginia Tech.



2023-2024 P&HCC Patrick & Henry Scholars.

Applications for P&HCC Scholars and Commonwealth Legacy Scholars Now Open

ty College (P&HCC) Foundation is now accepting applications for the Patrick & Henry Scholars and Commonwealth Legacy scholarships. Each year, up to ten local high school graduates are chosen to become Patrick & Henry Scholars. These scholars receive a scholarship to cover tuition, textbooks, and fees for up to two academic years.

"Becoming a Patrick & Henry Scholar is a distinguished honor that is both an experience and an opportunity," said Tiffani Underwood, Director of the P&HCC Foundation, adding, "The application process is rigorous, but the reward of being P&H Scholars is invaluable both while on campus here at P&H-CC and beyond."

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must have a high school grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale. They must be graduates from an area high school or have completed a homeschool program of study. Scholars are chosen for their superior academic achievement, civic involvement, and leadership potential. Graduates of homeschool programs must be seventeen years of age or older at the time of the application and must reside in the P&HCC service region.

Once accepted, Patrick & Henry Scholars must maintain a 3.0 grade lpulliam@patrickhenry.edu.

The Patrick & Henry Communi- point average and be full-time students (enrolled in at least 12 credit hours) at P&HCC. They also will be expected to participate in two extracurricular activities per semester and accrue ten volunteer service hours each semester.

Students who apply for the Patrick & Henry Scholars award will automatically be considered for the Commonwealth Legacy scholarship. One outstanding student from each community college in Virginia is selected to receive this award, which was created by the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) and is sponsored by the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education. The funds from this scholarship can be used for tuition, textbooks, and fees. Eligible students are full time, associate degree-seeking students attending college for the first time. As a merit-based scholarship, it will be awarded to a student who has demonstrated academic excellence and a commitment to develop leadership skills.

To apply, students should visit www.patrickhenry.edu/scholarships.

For additional information, contact Letitia Pulliam in the Patrick & Henry Community College Foundation Office at (276) 656-0250 or

Understanding Dementia Related Behaviors Topic of February 27 Program

You could not, would not, should ination Library. This monthly not miss a birthday such as this! book-gifting program is available We're having a party, it's truer to any child under 5 living in than true. We want to celebrate Patrick County. The program is and party with you!

Come spend the afternoon at Virginia Tech's Reynolds Homestead INC, One Family Productions, and celebrating the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, March 3. Admission is \$5 per person; find details and register online at reynoldshomestead.vt.edu.

various fun activities for families to enjoy. Sit back and listen to a story, read aloud, walk around and make crafts, or try your hand at a Seuss science experiment.

snacks and refreshments, maybe you'll find yourself getting your camera out and spending some time taking silly photos in the photo booth using a variety of Seuss character props. The options are endless.

your family celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday. This will be a floating event, and everyone is welcome us in person to celebrate the conto come and stay for as little or as tributions of both Dolly Parton and long as they would like.

In addition, this event will conrick County Dolly Parton Imag- Gilbert at (276) 694-7181 ex. 22.

sponsored by the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce, STEP, Stuart Rotary with support from a local steering committee of educators, civic leaders, and business owners. Participation in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library is free, though a registration form The afternoon will be filled with must be completed to sign up. Additional information about the program and registration forms will be available at the Dr. Seuss birthday celebration.

Special guests at the event will After eating some Seuss-inspired include a variety of Dr. Seuss's imaginative characters as well as a lead cast member from Patrick & Henry Community College's upcoming presentation of Dolly Parton's smash-hit musical 9 -to 5. The show is at Walker Fine Arts theatre on the P&HCC main cam-Enjoy a leisurely afternoon with pus in Martinsville in April and tickets go on sale Friday, March 1. We are excited to have "Dolly" with Dr. Seuss to children's literacy.

If you have questions or need adtinue with the support of the Pat- ditional information, call Melanie

Organizational meeting set for farmers market

The Stuart Farmers Market vendor organizational meeting is set for 11 a.m. on Friday, February 23, in the Town Office, 100 Patrick Avenue, Stuart.

The upcoming market season will be discussed.

A representative from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences will attend to discuss the role growers play in the Senior Nutrition Voucher program. Call the town office at (276) 694-3811 with additional questions.

Caring for an individual with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia can be challenging and, at times, overwhelming. Frustration is a normal and valid emotional response to many of the difficulties of being a caregiver.

In an effort to bring a better understanding of dementia to the community, The Landmark Center, in partnership with the Alzheimer's Associ-Western cational program on their care to someone living with Alzheimer's dementias.

gram can help you attendees. February gain valuable insights into undercover effective strat- Community



ALZHEIMER'S Ω SASSOCIATION UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONDING TO DEMENTIA-RELATED BEHAVIORS In partnership with the Landmark Center

Tuesday, Feb. 27 | Noon

ation of Central and individual's require- Martin at lmartin@ Virginia, ments. Learn how to thelandmarkctr.com will host its month- intervene in a man- to reserve a lunch. ly Alzheimer's edu- ner that promotes Reservations are not February 27 at noon. and quality of life. tend the program. This program is free Equip yourself with and open to anyone practical knowledge caregiver - personwho is interested in that empowers you al or professional learning more about to provide better - who works with how to recognize, care and support for dementia manage, and provide those affected by de- to attend the event," mentia.

disease and other by Brooke Gill will can help you make a begin at noon and positive difference in This month's pro- lunch is provided for the lives of others." will feature home- inclement made chicken noodle er on the day of the standing behaviors soup and mini sub program, it will be linked with demen- sandwiches. Those moved to the fourth tia. Explore typical interested in attend- Tuesday in March. triggers for these ing can call (276) The Landmark Cenbehaviors and dis- 694-3050 or email ter is located at 227 egies to assess the tions Director Lisa Stuart.

well-being required to just at-

"We encourage any patients said Martin. "What The presentation Brooke will present

> In the event of weath-Rela- Landmark Drive in

Audit

(cont. from page 1)

The last report issued is the Uniformed Guidance, or Federal Compliance Testing, which also was clean, with no findings noted.

"That concludes all our federal testing of the county, the school board, services as well. All that came back really correct and in compliance," he said.

In 2023, Wickham said the county had a little more than \$10 million in net investment in capital assets, including the county's buildings, infrastructure, vehicles, and the like, and \$3,012,044 in restricted funds.

"Those are things such as opioid settlements, donated funds, some asset forfeiture/seizure funds. Things that are restricted by the Code of Virginia or an external party for a certain use," Wickham said.

Patrick County has \$11,257,180 in unrestricted funds for 2023, Wickham said, adding that amount is available for use.

"You can see it's a bit in growth there from 2019, which is really encouraging to see," he said. "I know several years ago we sat here and discussed the concerning condition of the county, but it's much improved, so that's good to see."

Wickham said the total revenues for the county are growing about nine percent per year over the five-year trend.

"That's heavily inflated with the use of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. So, you'll see the intergovernmental revenues increased quite a bit from '21 to '22, to '23. That is the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) money you received over that timeframe," he said.

Overall, he said the revenues have increased by about nine percent, with property taxes being about 4.5 percent.

Wickham said there is a significant increase in the other local taxes category, which accounts for the "1 percent additional, for the most part, related to sales tax which goes to the school board. You'll see an increase in contribution to the school board, which kind of offsets that increase in revenue," he said.

A small increase in general administration expenses was noted, from \$1,661,445 in 2021 to \$2,000,302 in 2023, Wickham said, "but \$140,000 of that was ARPA funds this year."

In addition to an increase in education, there also was an increase in health and welfare, with "a significant increase in CSA (Children's Ser-

Robotics _

(cont. from page 1)

game required the team to figure out the team competed in Harrisonburg, a way to capture hexagonal shaped Pixels on the playing field and be able and 2 losses, and ranked 7th. Unforto score them on a slanted backboard as high as 32 inches off the ground. To that end, the team designed a 4 stage linear drawer slide system that was capable of reaching over 36 inches off the ground to score in the highest location.

as the programming language to #1, and the top seed in the tournaprogram the robot to operate in both ment, John Pendleton, who is among Autonomous and Driver Controlled the organizers, said. Unfortunatemode, and incorporated a webcam ly, the team fell 1 win to 2 losses in into the robot to read the location of a the tournament because its alliance custom Team Scoring Element, also partner had mechanical issues with designed by the team. The ability to implement Autonomous odometry into the robot this season allowed the robot for the 2023-24 season, Pendprograming team to accurately program the robot to make movements around the playing field quickly and repeatably. This year, the team's autonomous programming and scoring was as good as any team it competed against. The Patrick team competed in three qualifier events this season. At the December 2 event in Christiansburg, it finished the day with 4 wins and 1 loss, and ranked 3rd. On January 20,

vices Act) cost in revenues as well to offset this year," he said.

The total debt service for 2023 was \$2,740,109. "It did decline by 20 percent per year, but that's a little bit deceiving, 2019 did include that refunding, so there's additional costs in that year. Excluding that 2019 year, debt services has increased by about 4 percent over the last four years. So, a little bit more of a relative number for you there," he said.

The total expenses for 2023 were \$32,135,628, and increased by less than four percent per year, Wickham said, and added that it is good to see revenues outpacing expenses, "particularly where you were, in a situation where your fund balance was really low. That's a good way to get back to where you need to be.

For fiscal year 2023, Wickham said 7 percent of the county's revenues were property taxes and 15 percent were other local taxes, such as local sales taxes, lottery taxes, and meals tax.

The general fund expenses for 2023 include 31 percent for public safety, 23 percent for education, 14 percent for health and welfare, and nine percent for total debt service.

Wickham said Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), a national organization, recommends "a minimum unassigned fund balance of two months, or 16.67 percent. That's a minimum and that is a true unassigned fund balance."

Patrick County's unassigned fund balance as of June 2023 was \$14.2 million, he said and noted that some localities may need more than that versus others.

"Also, you do twice a year (real estate tax) collections, so half of your real estate, personal property, comes in, in June essentially," Wickham said. "At the end of June, you would expect to have a little higher fund balance than you may have at other points during the year."

The county's general long-term obligation debt decreases by about 4 percent per year, Wickham said, "so, it's good that you're paying down those bonds.'

Wickham said the state debt average is 3,766 in 2022 and 2023, while the county's is 3,257.

"You are below that, so that's good because that state does include Northern Virginia, which should probably have a higher debt per capita," he said.

In other matters, the board:

*Heard an update on the county's broadband projects. County Administrator Beth Simms said Charter-Spectrum, which is doing the project in the Claudville area, has started construction

"They have installed one mile of cable underground. They did hit rock, so they're having a little bit of a delay. They have multiple crews working, and they're waiting on some arial permits from Appalachian Power," she said.

Simms the county is working on scheduling a Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD) site visit.

"You know, DHCD has put out all this money so they kind of want to come and see progress. So, when we do that, we'll let you all know and hopefully get some pictures and show the progress that's happening there," she said.

With the RiverStreet Networks project. Simms said construction in Franklin County was scheduled to begin on Friday, February 16. "We have been promised that Patrick and Henry Counties will start 30 days after that," she said.

*Approved minutes from the Jan. 8 and Jan. 22 meetings.

*Approved the bills, claims, and appropriations

*Set a public hearing for March 11 to approve the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) secondary six-year plan.

*Scheduled a public hearing for March 11 to approve the Fairy Stone Solar siting agreement.

*Approved a performance agreement with Apex Mills Insights Textiles.

*Approved the opening of checking accounts for the Public Service Authority (PSA) and Building Inspections.

*Approved a funding request for Meadows of Dan Volunteer Fire Department.

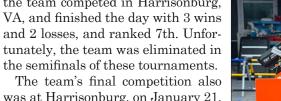
*Heard the administrator's report.

*Heard the supervisors' reports.

*Heard from Norma Bozenmayer, about Doug Perry's community meeting and a crime watch meeting held by Sheriff Dan Smith and Deputy Dustin Foley.

*Heard from Steve Ferring, of the Dan River District, about the county's spending and the need for a purchasing agent.

*Heard from Jamie Clark, of the Peters Creek District, about Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and solar.



was at Harrisonburg, on January 21, and PC Rocket Robotics finished the day with 5 wins/0 losses and ranked #1 for the day. It is always difficult, The programming team uses Java but an honor to finish the day ranked a robot. The local team built an amazing leton said. "The team should be extremely proud as they consistently compete with teams from all over Virginia, Maryland and DC. During the Harrisonburg event on January 20, the highlight of the day was the team being awarded the Motivate Award. "The team that receives the Motivate Award celebrates the culture of FIRST and clearly shows what it means to be a team. This award celebrates the team that represents the essence of the FIRST Tech Challenge competition through team building, team spirit, and displayed enthusiasm. This





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fort to make FIRST known throughout their community and sparks others to embrace the culture of FIRST," he said.

The team is losing three seniors this season: Elizabeth McCann has been on the team for two years and is part of the programming team. Evan Farmer and Hunter Meade joined PC Rocket Robotics as 7th graders in its first season in 2018. Both have been a part of the team for all six seasons. Evan has been on the Build team and Hunter on the CAD/Design Team for all six seasons.

The loss "will leave a huge void in our team and (they) will be sorely missed," Pendleton said. "We wish them all the best and can't wait to see the amazing accomplishments they will have in their life."

Team mentors "are extremely

proud



The team will lose three seniors this season -Evan Farmer, Elizabeth McCann and Hunter Meade.

said. "The season is long, requires hard work, commitment but most importantly, TEAMWORK! We are extremely proud of this year's awesome robot design, the impressive way it competed on the field, and most of all for the dedication by the team to keep working and make the robot better and better."

PC Rocket Robotics is a 501c3 that relies on donations for businesses and individuals to provide STEM based Robotics opportunities for the youth of Patrick County. The team appreciates all of its sponsors this season, and is "extremely grateful for our Platinum sponsors," Pendleton said of Rodney and Donna Overby, C&F Bank, DRP Performance, Walmart, Qualcomm, MiNet and SolidWorks.

To make a donation to the team, of this year's send a check made out to PC Rocket team," Robotics, INC to PC Rocket Robotics, Pendleton PO Box 165, Stuart, VA 24171.





Zuckerbucks

Recently, the House Administration Committee, of which I am a member, held a hearing on the use of private funding in our elections. Specifically, we discussed the use of "Zuckerbucks" (the name commonly used for non-government money spent on

2020 presidential election, which access. has been a source of concern for many.

As the country prepared for the 2020 election, state and local election offices faced unique challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. Many were worried that traditional voting ing's witnesses, Mr. Scott Walter, in person would lead to negative public health consequences.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg donated \$350 million to the 2020 Biden districts, where a Center for Technology and Civic whopping \$3.75 was spent per Life (CTCL), started by former left-leaning organizers. According to Influencewatch.org, the CTCL is a Chicago-based center-left leaning organization. Another \$69.5 million was given by Zuckerberg to a related organization, the Center for Election Innovation and Research.

These organizations used the "Zuckerbucks" to give out grants to election officials in hundreds of counties and cities across 48 states. According to Zuckerberg and the CTCL, these funds were to be used by election offices to help with COVID-19 related challenges, like hiring more staff, buying more voting machinery, buying personal protective equipment to safely administer elections, etc.

That was not the case.

Instead, much of the money was used for "get out the vote" efforts in areas that were more likely to vote Democrat. In fact, it's been shown now that less than 1% of these funds were used to purchase personal protective equipment.

One example at the hearing of where the money was spent was on the use of mobile voting trucks tain voters over others. in Wisconsin. They were purchased with "Zuckerbucks" and ed using public funds, adminisdriven around Democrat-likely tered by governments who have jurisdictions to help people there strict guidelines for how they run register to vote and/or vote absentee.



administering elections) in the to ensure voters have reasonable

And yet, urban areas received more "Zuckerbucks" per voter than rural areas did.

Perhaps it is because urban areas tend to vote more Democratic than rural areas do?

According to one of our hearnationwide the average number of "Zuckerbucks" spent in 2020 Months before the election, Trump jurisdictions was just 55 cents per capita. As opposed to capita.

> Additionally, Democrat-likely jurisdictions in many of the 2020 battleground states received the lion's share of grants given out by CTCL.

> For example, Democrat-likely jurisdictions in Arizona received 75% of the "Zuckerbucks" awarded in that state; 83% in Pennsylvania; 86% in Michigan; 90% in Wisconsin; 94% in Georgia, and; 100% in Nevada.

> While CTCL's grants may not have been intended to benefit Democrats, it certainly did benefit them. As Mr. Walter said during the hearing, IRS policy states charities cannot have the effect, whether or not they had the intention, of helping one party over another in an election.

The CTCL privately donated funds helped significantly more Democrat voters participate in the 2020 election than Republican voters.

This is just one reason why private funding should not be used to administer elections. Private entities should not have the power to affect our elections like this - using resources to assist cer-

Elections should only be fundelections, have oversight mechanisms in place, and are beholden to the American people, not private interests.

U.S. crop markets and growers affected by drought and overseas conflict

The global connectedness of agridisruptions eventually affect farmers, and the U.S. economy in general.

Terrorist acts against shipping vessels in the Red Sea and low water levels in the Panama Canal are two major obstacles hindering the movement of U.S. agricultural exports. These result in increased shipping costs and delays, influencing market prices and ultimately hurting the farmer's bottom line.

American Farm Bureau Federation economist Betty Resnick gave farmers a deeper look beyond those headlines last month in a crop market workshop during the annual AFBF convention in Salt Lake City.

Of all the cargo moving through the Panama Canal, 72% is either coming or going from U.S. ports, including homegrown agricultural products like sorghum, soybeans and corn. Canal shipments represent 14% of all U.S. maritime trade. But an ongoing drought lowering canal water levels has slowed traffic by 33%.

"There's not really a relief in sight until they get more rain," Resnick said.

Alternate routes greatly increase shipping time and costs. And one is fraught with physical danger.

Dozens of cargo ships have been cultural trade means international attacked in the Red Sea by Houthi assailants, nominally in retaliation for the ongoing conflict in Gaza, she said. Despite international action, attacks continue, raising shipping costs

> "Global container costs have gone up 130% between late December and mid-January," Resnick continued. "Typically, the Red Sea is really a minor route for U.S. agricultural products, but because of issues in the Panama Canal, we're seeing a much stronger impact.'

> Global events also can impact farms in Virginia, said Tony Banks, senior assistant director of agriculture, development and innovation at Virginia Farm Bureau Federation.

> "For example, Virginia ships a significant amount of grain and sovbean in containers to ports in southeast Asia," he said. "So, the drought in Panama can make it difficult to ship to Asia, resulting in higher freight costs and perhaps shipping delays for Virginia farm goods. The Red Sea attacks also can raise the cost to ship Virginia grain to Asia due to the scarcity of containers and higher shipping insurance premiums, even if our container ships continue to pass through the Panama Canal.'

Arrests Reported

reported the following:

*Dillon James Gustafson, 23, of Patrick County Jail, was charged Feb. 9 with grand larceny. Senior Deputy C.M. Gilbert was the arresting officer.

*Samantha Sue Moorefield, 37, of Bassett, was charged Feb. 10 with probation violation. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges was the arresting officer.

*Justin Lewis Wood, 46, of Woolwine, was charged Feb. 10 with probation violation. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges made the arrest for Floyd County.

*Timothy Banks Brannock, 46, of Mt. Airy, N.C., was charged Feb. 12 with fail to appear. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges made the arrest for Carroll County.

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office Martinsville, was charged Feb. 12 with probation violation. Martinsville PD made the arrest for Patrick County

> *Susan C. Bridges, 69, of Meadows of Dan, was charged Feb. 12 with 18 counts of animal cruelty. Master Deputy R.J. Williams was the arresting officer.

> *Samantha Sue Moorefield, 27, of Bassett, was charged Feb. 13 with probation violation. Sgt. D. Celozzi made the arrest for Martinsville.

> *Brandon Keith Brammer, 40, of Woolwine, was charged Feb. 14 with three counts contribute to delinguency of a minor. Inv. Tennille Jessup was the arresting officer.

> *Gavin Zachary Moore, 32, of Stuart, was charged Feb. 14 with assault, 3rd offense. Senior Deputy A. Kinney

VIEWPOINTS

The data on the use of "Zuckerbucks" is alarming.

Let's first look at our home state of Virginia.

hearing, Capital Research Cen- run elections, we need to assure ter data showed Democrat-likely counties in Virginia received about 90% of the "Zuckerbucks," while Republican-likely jurisdictions received only 10%.

Arlington County (in a D+26 Congressional District) alone received \$238,643 in funding, while the entire 9th District (R+23), encompassing 28 jurisdictions, received just \$78,053. This means 3 times as much money went to Arlington County.

What's also interesting is the percentage of "Zuckerbucks" that went to urban areas vs. rural areas in Virginia. As the witness Abingdon office at (276) 525selected by the Democrats testi- 1405, my Christiansburg office fied, administering elections in at (540) 381-5671, or via my webrural areas costs more per voter, site at https://morgangriffith. as there is more ground to cover house.gov/.

Further, as I said in a subsequent hearing, if the government As I pointed out during the is going to give more money to the formula is fair to rural jurisdictions.

> Americans need to have faith that our elections are being administered in a fair and unpartisan wav.

Thankfully, since the 2020 election, 27 states have banned or restricted election offices from using private funds, "Zuckerbucks," to administer elections.

That's why I am supporting a federal bill to stop "Zuckerbucks."

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, call my

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.

dre Maurice Reynolds, 35, of was the arresting officer

Legislators look to pass gun safety legislation

Edwin J. Viera

Virginia News Connection

Virginia's Senate recently passed a series of gun safety bills, which now head to the House.

Among them are measures to ban assault weapons in public, ban "ghost guns," and increasing other safety measures.

The bills come as many states and the federal government are taking a hard look at gun violence. Last year, Virginia saw a reduction in gun violence, due in part to community violence prevention funds. But the state still ranks high for gun deaths.

Kelsey Cowger, press secretary for Progress VA, said based on other state progress, the bills are essential to keeping Virginians safe.

"When movement has been possible, it's been a base that we can work off of that stops the insane level of killing within our communities that already exists and allows us to catch our breath a little bit," Cowger asserted.

Some Republicans in both Gener-

If you enjoyed the recent columns by Ben Williams and Holly Kozelsky, they are available weekly in the Henry **County Enterprise**

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al Assembly chambers oppose the bills, noting they restrict a person's 2nd Amendment rights. Yet, polls show the bills have widespread support across party lines. The measures have been referred to the House Committee on Public Safety.

Cowger contended the bills are a steady foundation for Virginia to build on. While other reforms can prove crucial for reducing gun violence further, she stressed the state needs to get this current set of legislation on the books first.

"You know, as much as I would like to sort of look with an eye towards the future for the kind of changes we can make, I feel like we just need the foundation first," Cowger acknowledged. "We need to be able to gauge whether or not dangerous people have guns."

National gun violence deaths have been declining since they peaked in 2021. In Virginia, there have been more than 9,300 shootings between 2014 and 2022, which resulted in more injuries than fatalities.

Family Album

Wednesday, February 21. 2024 - 5

Patrick Pioneers

Claiborne & Saluda Mustain under Gen. Wayne and was much Shelton and Haman & Pricilla impressed with the farming possi-Fitzgerald Shelton

By Beverly Belcher Woody

Last week, we began looking at Revolutionary War Captain Eliphaz Shelton who, in 1791, deeded 18 acres of land to newly formed Patrick County; these 18 acres created the town we now know as Stuart.

I asked if anyone might know the fate of the Eliphaz Shelton family cemetery, and the enslaved African cemetery at the foot of Main Street. The cemetery was documented in Mr. O.E. Pilson's cemetery book, it was marked on surveys, and was visited by locals in the community. Several people reached out to tell me that the cemetery was located on a ridge overlooking the Mayo River. If you recall the trailer park that was located at the foot of Main Street from the 1960's through 1990's, the cemetery was on the ridge between the trailer park and the back of Curtis Carter's childhood homeplace. According to the folks that reached out to me, these cemeteries were bulldozed two when the ridge was flattened for Indiana where they established development. William Letcher's grave is the oldest marked grave in Patrick County; Letcher was murdered by Tories in 1780. The Shelton cemetery's graves were nearly as old; the first burial was Eliphaz's mother in 1787, followed by his father Ralph in 1789.

I hope that by sharing the Shelton family story in this column, it will help to ensure that folks will remember their family's immense contribution to Patrick County's history. For this second week of the Shelton family history, we will look at Eliphaz and Nancy Asher's son, Claiborne and his son, Haman.

The following information is from the book, "History of Gallia, Ohio" written by W. Grody. "Claiborne Shelton married Saluda 'Luedy' Mustain, daughter of Thomas Avery Mustain, of Pittsylvania County, Virginia on May 16, 1785."

I am going to digress here a minute. If you are interested in the Mustain family, you will be happy to know that the home of Thomas Avery Mustain still survives on Telegraph Road in Gretna, VA. In "Tracks Along the Staunton," Diane Popek writes that "Around Fitzgerald Shelton. "I am writing 1750 Thomas Mustain, on the orig- the account of Haman Shelton Sr.

bilities of the Wabash County, Indiana. The government, unable to pay its soldiers in cash, offered land instead. So, in 1811, Claiborne, Saluda, and ten of their eleven children, headed for that county. They loaded the bedding in a wagon and Saluda drove a cow hitched to the wagon. All but William the youngest, who rode with his mother, walked and carried packs. They followed buffalo and Indian trails and had traveled many miles when they came to what was to become Greenfield Township, Gallia Co. Saluda became too ill to go on. Chimney Rock on Symmes Creek furnished shelter. The story goes that with no time to build a cabin, and Saluda too ill to move, the family took shelter in a cave. The creek was full of fish and the woods full of game; that spring Saluda died. She was buried in a private cemetery on the opposite hillside. Claiborne built a cabin and stayed on until the rest of the children were grown."

Claiborne and two of his sons traveled on to Wabash County, homesteads, but most of the children remained in Gallia County, Ohio to raise their families.

Claiborne and Saluda's only child that remained in Patrick County in 1811 when the rest of his family left, was Haman D. Shelton. I have been unable to find why twelveyear-old Haman would remain in Patrick County, Virginia, while the rest of his family headed out west, but I imagine this was a very sad time for all. Haman, born in Patrick County in 1799, married Miss Pricilla Fitzgerald on the 26th of September 1819. Pricilla was the daughter of Harvey Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gazaway Fitzgerald of Patrick County. Several of Pricilla's brothers and their families lived in Patrick County their entire lives: Thomas; James; Leonard; and Madison Fitzgerald.

Haman and Pricilla Fitzgerald must have left Virginia not long after their marriage because in the 1830 and 1840 census records, they were living in Marion, Illinois. The following is an account written by Roy Shelton in 1962 about his great grandparents, Haman and Pricilla inal grant by King George II of En- and his family, who came to Oregon the Barlow Pass, around the south man Shelton was born in Patrick Now, back to the information County, Virginia on February 22,



Haman and Pricilla Fitzgerald Shelton tombstone from Find a Grave.

born on December 26, 1797. Haman and Pricilla from 1819 to 1843 had 13 children."

Shelton continued, "They left Independence, Missouri in April of 1847 by ox team, with 12 of their children. They tried to make 10 miles per day. They arrived in the Willamette Valley in the last days of August 1847. They averaged 13 miles per day. Their journey across the plains was very hard work, getting the oxen over the ground, camp, cook, and eat. With the Holy Bible, prayer every night, they plodded on. They had no Indian trouble as their scouts were of the best. When they reached the Dalles, Oregon Territory, they were confronted with three ways to reach the Willamette Valley. One was to make log rafts and put everything on the rafts and float them down the Columbia River to the Cascade Rapids, take everything off the rafts and portage 6 miles around the rapids, rebuild the rafts, and float on down to the Willamette River to Oregon City. The second way was to ford the Columbia River, at the Dalles and go down to Fort Vancouver on the north bank of the Columbia, which was mountainous and rough. The third way was to go overland on a road that was little known in 1847. In 1845, Samuel Kimbrough Barlow, a sturdy pioneer from Kentucky, was wagon master of his train and trail boss. The Dalles was full of wagon trains, so Barlow decided to follow an old Indian trail to Tygh Valley and on to Wamic, White River over passed away in March of 1876 and

ons, fresh graves, lots of their cattle dead, some abandoned their belongings to save themselves. When Haman and his train reached the Dalles in July 1847, this was the third way he and his companions could get to Willamette Valley and the Promised Land."

Shelton concluded his great grandfather's story, "Haman and his companions, being of sturdy stock and wishing to get to the valley as soon as possible, to get shelter built before winter, decided to go the Barlow Trail. In July 1847, they left Fort Dalles to Tygh Valley and over the Pass. There was no Pass. Just mountains, rivers, and steep bluffs. I've heard Grandfather tell of falling trees and with rope tied to the tip of the tree to the wagon, and using this for a drag, or brake, would ease the wagon down in the steepest places. They finally reached Oregon City and on up the Valley. They settled seven miles east of Scio. The time being the later part of August 1847. A campsite was decided on the north bank of the South Fork of the North Santiam River, later designated as Thomas Creek. In September, they went to affirm their signatures for the Donation Land Claim Act and Haman claimed his 640 acres (a square mile). By winter, he had a log cabin built on the camp site."

At the time Haman and Pricilla entered the Willamette Valley, he was 48 years old, and she was 50. Remarkably, (for the time) the couple lived for 29 more years. Haman Pricilla followed 4 months later.

gland, built a rock-wall house, a in 1847. My great grandfather Halandmark of Pittsylvania County."

shared in "The History of Gallia, 1799. He lived there until manhood Ohio," written by Mr. Grady. "Clai- and married Pricilla Fitzgerald, a borne served in the Indian Wars neighbor girl in 1819. Pricilla was

side of Mount Hood to Laurel Hill, Next week, we will look at Elipto Oregon City. The terrain was so rough, and the hills were so steep, make it they did, with broke wag-

to Government Camp, and zigzag haz and Nancy Shelton's children who remained in Patrick County. Woody may be reached at rockcasit is a wonder they ever made it, but tlecreek 1@gmail.com or (276) 692-9626.

Social Security Matters

American Citizens

Ask Rusty – Should I Claim Social Security at 68, or Wait Until I'm 70?

my SS benefits. I turned 68 this month and work part time. I earned \$28,000 last year but will probably gross \$36,000 to \$38,000 this year. My husband collects his SS, and he earned \$25,000 last year. I was told by a financial planner that I should apply for my benefits now, instead of waiting until I'm 70. I would collect \$1700/month at 68 and \$1944/month if I wait. Which is the smarter move? Signed: Seeking Answers

Dear Seeking: I'm sure your financial advisor would agree that your decision on when to claim your Social Security comes down to just a few basic things -1) how badly you need the money, 2) your life expectancy, and 3) whether you will receive a spousal boost from your husband when you claim.

Because you have already passed your full retirement age (FRA) of 66 years and 4 months, your work earnings won't negatively affect your monthly SS benefit amount. If you claim now, however, your work earnings will affect how much of your SS benefits will be subject to income tax. Assuming you file your income tax as "married/filing jointly," up to 85% of the Social Security benefits you receive during the tax year will become part of your income tax-

By Russell Gloor, National Social Secu- able by the IRS. If you do not urgently need fits. If, however, you have reason to suspect rity Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the the extra money that your SS will provide, you won't achieve at least average life exnon-profit arm of the Association of Mature then waiting longer to claim will also post-pectancy, or you need the SS money sooner, benefits, and that may be a consideration.

Your life expectancy is key in making Dear Rusty: I have a question regarding your decision on when to claim. You already know that your benefit will be \$244 per month more if you wait until you are 70 to claim. If you claim at 68 (e.g., this month), you will collect about \$40,800 by the time you reach 70. If you, instead, wait until age 70 to get that extra \$244/month benefit, it will take you about 14 years collecting at the higher rate to offset the \$40,800 you would have received had you claimed now (in other words, you would break even moneywise at about age 84). If your life expectancy is longer, then waiting to claim may be the better choice. Of course, no one knows how long they will live but, for general guidance, average life expectancy for a woman your current age is about 87. Family history and your current purposes only and does not represent lehealth are obviously influencing factors as well. If you wish to get a more personal estimate of your life expectancy, I suggest using this tool:

> www.socialsecurityreport.org/tools/ life-expectancy-calculator/.

In the end, if you believe you will attain at least average life expectancy and you don't urgently need the money now, waiting longer will not only give you a higher monthly benefit in your later years, but also the most in cumulative lifetime bene-

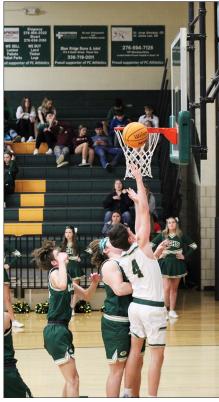
pone paying income tax on your received claiming before age 70 is likely the better move.

> One other thing to consider: If your benefit as your husband's spouse will be more than your own earned maximum SS retirement benefit, then you should claim your SS benefit now. Your maximum benefit as a spouse would be 50% of your husband's full retirement age entitlement and, if that is more than your own benefit will be at age 70, then claiming now to get your maximum spousal benefit would be your best choice. To get a spousal benefit from your husband, your personal FRA entitlement (not your age 68 amount) would need to be less than half of his FRA entitlement. If that isn't the case, then you should make your decision based only on your own Social Security entitlement, as described above.

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



Glenvar tops Cougars



Cameron Collins shoots against two Glenvar

Nathan Large puts up a shot.



Head Coach Brian Chitwood talks with this team during a timeout.

By Pat Delaney

The Patrick County varsity boys' season against the Glenvar Highlanders on February 12, falling 73-51.

the opening tip playing a full-court ing several turnovers and convertpress, which caused the Cougars ing them into points while closing trouble in stretches throughout the the Glenvar lead to nine. Glenvar's game. Early on, the Cougars kept defensive pressure and ability to hit the game within reach, despite three-pointers kept Patrick County Glenvar hitting multiple three-point from closing the gap and further. shots in the first quarter. Turnovers The Cougars fought back to a ten cost Patrick County, allowing Glen- point deficit with 3:00 to go in the var to increase their lead late in the game, but a 6-0 Glenvar run shut quarter to eight, 17-9.

pressure, pushing the ball down court and holding the Highlander basketball team closed out their lead to 12 going into halftime at 33-21

The Cougars showed flashes in the second half, including an 8-0 The Highlanders came out from run in the middle of the third, causthe door on the Cougars comeback.



SPORTS

Noah Jessup drives over Glenvar defenders for the shot.



Easton Harris flies toward the basket.



Stuart Callahan shoots over two Highlander defenders.

long, full court pressure causing do what I'm asking them to do." turnovers, Coach Chitwood liked the effort he saw from his team.

"That's the learning curve. Our turning to the roster. guys played their hearts out. We're working. It's just situational basket- that have a whole years' playing ball and sometimes we don't under- experience, and we'll be better as "Our margin of error is so thin," stand, and that's my fault. That's a result of that. We've got a very sure continued to cause turnovers, said Cougar Head Coach Brian not theirs," he said. "But it's some- rigorous offseason planned that's thing that takes time, and I prom- about to go into place and our guys ise you, we're working on it. They're are going to continue to work," said going to get there. That's a great Chitwood, "and we're going to get group of kids. They do their best to better."

Looking ahead to next season, the Cougars will have nine juniors re-

"That's a huge nucleus of guys

The Highlander defensive presleading to a 7-0 run midway through Chitwood. "We're playing stretches the second quarter. In the last three and then in moments we have far minutes of the quarter, the Cougars too many turnovers." found success against the full-court

Despite the Highlander's game



Pictured are Coach Hylton Scott, Will Heath and John Crews. (Contributed)

Heath earns spot on academic team

Will Heath, a member of the Patrick County High School Fish- Angler's Choice Open House and ing Team, earned a spot on the John Crews was one of the guest 2022-2023 John Crews All-Aca- speakers and presented the trodemic Team. To earn this award, phies to the students. John Crews anglers must earn a GPA of 3.0 is a Professional Bass Angler on or higher at the end of the school the Bassmaster Elite and owner year.

Awards were presented at the of Missile Baits.

General fund revenues in January were consistent with forecast

uary 2024 remain in line with the geted appropriately when releasconsensus revenue forecast, Gov. ing our Unleashing Opportunity Glenn Youngkin said last week. budget in December and as the For the month of January, Vir- budget process moves forward ginia experienced a 2.5 percent in the General Assembly this decline in comparison to the same weekend we can all be confident period last year, despite an extra the topline forecast remains prucollection day relative to the prior year. Year-to-date general fund revenues are up a moderate 5.3 and refunds continue to distort percent through the first seven overall revenue collections, undermonths of Fiscal Year 2024. The lying revenue growth in our maslight decline was driven largely jor revenue sources remains on or by a dip in non-withholding collections and lower-than-expected individual income tax refunds related to the elective Pass-Through Entity Tax (PTET), while other major revenue sources were generally in line with expectations.

"The Commonwealth's January revenues show that our conservative forecast remains prudent as conflicting economic signals sources, net individual income continue to cloud definitive conclusions in the fiscal year," said Youngkin. "Virginia's labor market remains tight and we contin- year, while sales and use tax colue to monitor withholding and lections, insurance premiums, non-withholding patterns as we and wills, suits and deeds are all start a new calendar year. This lower year-to-date.

General fund revenues for Jan- month's report confirms we buddent."

> "While PTET-related collections slightly ahead of forecasts," said Secretary of Finance Stephen Cummings. "We are confident in our conservative revenue forecast and we are continuing to monitor revenue collections and economic data. Given these downside risks, we will maintain a cautious outlook going forward."

> Among the major revenue tax collections, corporate income tax, and interest income are all slightly elevated relative to last

WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET

Wednesday, February 21, 2024 - 7

BITUARIES

Dean Morris Hanby

Dean Morris Hanby, 96, passed away on February 14, 2024. She was born July 18, 1927, in Henry County to the late William Quince Morris and Lelia Joyce Morris. She was preceded in death by her husband of 62 years, David G. Hanby on April 5th, 2016. Dean was born in Henry County, graduated from Spencer Penn High School and attended Madison College, now James Madison University. She began her working career in the office of Dupont, then at the State Patsy Hite. Corporation Commis-D.G. met and married. Rod Acuff of Roanoke, They worked in the Va. and step-grand-Circuit Court Clerk's daughter Lindsey and office in Stuart togeth- her family of Chriser for many years.

Dean and D.G. were Stuart and were an integral part of life in Patrick County. They Dean was a member Hawks, who have re-Women, taught Sun- her life. day School, and served gift shop.

Mr. Derrick Bryan Roop, age 71, of Critz, Virginia went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at Northern Regional Hospital in Mount Airy, North Carolina. He was born in Honolulu, Hawaii on October 14, 1952, to the late George Johnson Roop and the late Dana Evelyn loved his family, es-Gilley Roop. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one brother, Lynn Roop. Derrick was a graduate of Patrick County High School, Class of 1971, which was the first graduating class from Patrick County High School. After high school, he attended Averett University. Derrick retired from Smurf-Containers. it-Stone In his younger years, he enjoyed horseback riding and trail rides with his family. He of was a hard worker, and a great provider for his family. Derrick was a loving husband, father. grandfather, brother.



bers who preceded her in death were her siblings, three brothers, Clyde, Tom, and Glenn Morris. Also, three sisters, Mattie Reed Lester, Ruth Myers, and

Dean is survived by sion in Richmond. She her daughter and son at Kings Grant, The returned to Martins- in law Barbara Reed First United Methodville, where she and Hanby (Bobbie) and tiansburg, Va. She ary 19th the family has also been blessed longtime residents of by remaining nieces and nephews including Myke Myers, Joyce at Patrick Memorial May, Billie Abrams, were active members Patty Hite, Jack Lesof Stuart United Meth- ter, Marty Czubek, Suodist Church where san Painter, and Larry of United Methodist mained a constant in

After their move to lain as financial secretary Kings Grant in 1997, friend Paul Johnson, for some years. Dean Dean and D.G. found a followed by a small was a member of the new life full of wonder- reception of refreshhospital auxiliary as ful support and loving ments for friends to a pink lady with the friends, who continued gather. Online condolights of love and the to care for her after lences may be sent to D.G.'s death. They had www.moodyfunerals-Other family mem- become members of ervices.com.

Derrick Bryan Roop



First United Methodist Church, where her membership and support remained.

The family would like to offer deepest gratitude for the love and care shown my parents, while at Kings Grant. I never worried about them and slept well at night while under your care. Also, I extend my sincere thanks to Mom's faithful friend Jean Browe, who remained steadfast with Mom till the end.

would Mom be pleased to have memorial donations made to the Fellowship Fund ist Church of Martinsville, or Cave Spring United Methodist Church of Roanoke.

On Monday Februwill be present for a service of committal the mausoleum atGardens in Patrick Springs at 11am. This followed at 1pm at Kings Grant in Martinsville for words of remembrance of Dean by Kings Grant Chapand longtime

loni; one sister and brother-in-law, Linda Roop Handy (Hassel) of Critz, Virginia; several nieces and nephews; and many dear friends

A funeral service for Mr. Derrick Roop will be held on Monday, February 19, 2024, at 2:00 P.M. at Moody Funeral Home Chap-

Bills advance to protect state employees who access medical cannabis



By Michael Chun Capital News Service

State lawmakers have advanced bills that would allow public sector employees to use medical cannabis without losing their job.

House Bill 149, introduced by Del. Dan Helmer, D-Fairfax, extends to state public employees rights that already exist in the private sector. The bill passed with bipartisan support on a 78-20 vote.

Helmer sponsored HB 1862 three years ago, to protect patients approved for medical cannabis use. That bill "unintentionally did not protect public sector employees," Helmer said.

"The key was we left our brave first responders out of this," Helmer said. "That was never our intent and so this bill is meant to fix that."

A cannabis product is anything from CBD up to 10 milligrams of THC per dose, the current state cap, as long as the product is produced, sold and tested through the medical cannabis program.

Public sector employees such as firefighters, police officers and teachers are among the groups that would be protected under Helmer's bill if they are approved to use cannabis products to treat conditions or diseas-

Senate Bill 391, introduced by Sen. Stella Pekarsky, D-Fairfax, also offers protection to public sector employees, with the exception of law enforcement officers. The bill passed the Senate with a 30-10 vote.

tial consultation.

Dawn Adams, a nurse practitioner and former state delegate who represented the Richmond area, operates a medical cannabis practitioner clinic. Cannabis products are often used to help with PTSD, anxiety and sleep problems that are associated with the employee's role, according to Adams.

Over-the-counter and prescription drugs, along with alcohol, can sometimes have lingering effects compared to an appropriate dose of short-acting cannabis medication, Adams said. But that has been the only option for many workers.

"Many of these people have had to jump through a thousand hoops to even be considered to use medical cannabis," Adams said. "When in fact, it would be a pretty decent alternative to many of the health determinants that are associated with their life."

Employers would still be able to prohibit use of cannabis on the job and take action against any employee whose work is impaired because of cannabis use. The proposed bill does not make any changes to the current law in regards to federal workers.

There is no widely available rapid test to nail down the window of cannabis use to determine if an employee was impaired at work. Researchers at Virginia Commonwealth University are working on a THC breathalyzer to help law enforcement detect cannabis impairment, and distinguish between THC and CBD use.

Chelsea Higgs Wise is the executive Peksarsky's bill uses language that director of the advocacy group Mari-

pecially his grandchildren. Derrick will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Left to cherish the fond memories of Derrick Roop are his loving wife of 51 years, Joan Williams Roop of the home; one son, Kenneth Roop of Stu-Virginia; art. one daughter and son-inlaw, Dana Roop Harris (Michael) of Critz, Virginia; four grandchildren, Faith Roop Ruscelloni (Christian) Stuart, Virginia, Joshuwa Roop of Stuart, Virginia, Kristen Harris of Critz, Virginia, Makayleigh Harris of Critz, Virginia; uncle, and one great-grandchild, by visiting www.moofriend. Above all, he Joana Rose Ruscel- dyfuneralservices.com.

el in Stuart with Pastor Jimmy Wood and Pastor Roger Moore officiating. The burial will immediately follow the funeral service in Patrick Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends two hours prior to the funeral service on Monday afternoon at the funeral home. Flowers will be accepted, or memorial donations in memory of Mr. Roop may be made to Moun-Valley Hospice tain Palliative Care, and 1427 Edgewood Drive, Suite 101, Mt. Airy, NC 27030. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is serving the Roop family, and online condolences may be sent

Angela Diane Pendleton

Angela Diane Pendleton, born November 20, 1961, in Galax, VA at Waddell Hospital, moved to North Carolina and graduated from Ragsdale High School in Jamestown, NC. Angela received both her BS and MS in Laboratory Animal Science from North Carolina A&T State University.

Angela's life was in the social sciences and mental healthfields, helping care many people. She SO



work Andrew B. Duncan of Charlotte, NC; 1 daughter, Christine E. Duncan of Greensboro, NC; 2 grandsons, Cameron is survived by 1 son, and Beckham Duncan;

1 brother and sister inlaw Ernest L. and Cindy Pendleton of Stokesdale, NC; 2 nephews, Nathaniel and Jeremiah Pendleton; 1 niece, Ariel Pendleton; several cousins; many great friends; and her mother, Frances S. Pendleton of Laurel Fork, VA.

Burial will be at the Eliza Boyd cemetery in Meadows of Dan, VA. Services will be held at a later date. Online condolences may be sent to www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

extends protection for use of cannabis oil

Helmer's bill was amended from 'cannabis oil" to "cannabis products," which he said is meant to "refer to a slew of medically recommended products that have cannabis as the basis."

Any increase in inquiries or modifications to existing policies would be absorbed within existing resources by the Department of Labor and Industry or Department of Human Resource Management, respectively, according to the bill's impact statement.

Joe Mirabile, a representative of Virginia's Professional Firefighters, testified in support of Helmer's bill during its committee hearing.

"My members have reported that they're relying on alcohol far less, they're sleeping more at home and they're seeing other positive effects, such as reduction of joint and muscle pain without having to use opioid prescriptions," Mirabile said.

The only legal way that a person can purchase cannabis in the state is through the medical cannabis program. Approved state practitioners can issue a certification after an ini-

juana Justice, which is focused on helping the state create an equitable recreational cannabis marketplace.

"State employees should be allowed to access cannabis in their off-work time," Higgs Wise said.

The group supports Helmer's bill.

"We understand the nuances that public employees are navigating and are excited to offer our support for this extension of wellness to our employees of the Commonwealth," Higgs Wise stated in the organization's letter of support to Helmer.

There are approximately 1,000 approved medical cannabis practitioners in Virginia. A total of 98,396 patients used their written certification in 2023 to receive medical cannabis through the state program, according to the managing agency Cannabis Control Authority.

Both bills now advance to the other chamber.

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.

Floyd man dies in Montgomery Co. crash

A Floyd man died in a two-vehicle fied as Jesse Allen Jones, 29, of Floyd. crash last week in Montgomery County, according to a release from the Virginia State Police.

The crash occurred Monday, Feb. 12, at 2:20 p.m. on Virginia 11, one mile south of Plum Creek Road in Montgomery County, according to a release from the VSP.

The release stated that the 2010 Chevrolet Impala was traveling south on Virginia 11, when the vehicle crossed the centerline and struck a 2016 Ford F-150 head-on.

The driver of the Ford was identi-

Mr. Jones was not wearing his seatbelt and died at the scene, authorities said.

The Chevrolet was driven by Richard S. Helm, 41, of Shawsville, Va. Mr. Helm was not wearing his seatbelt and was transported to the hospital for injuries received in the crash. Charges are pending.

The Virginia State Police Crash Reconstruction Team assisted with the crash.

The crash remains under investigation





Sidney Ronald Owens

Sidney Ronald Owens, 80, of Roanoke, Virginia, went home to be with his Lord Savior Jesus and Christ on February 12th after a lengthy battle with cancer. Being a native of Patrick County, Ron was born on September 13, 1943, in Stuart, Virginia, to the late Guy Lamar and Emogene Hughes Owens. Ron was a loving brother to the late Marilee Janelle Owens Schmidt of Maryland and to the late Jeffrey Leroy Owens of Roanoke, and uncle to the late Bruce Schmidt of Maryland. Left to carry his memory are his brother Hughes Lamar Owens and wife Darla of Forest, his nieces Audrey Owens (Neville), Allison Owens (Tom), Beth-Ann Owens Lugar (David), his neph-Schmidt ew Glen (Dawn), Bruce's wife Brigitte, and the many great-nieces who and nephews loved him.

After Ron graduated from Stuart High School in 1961, he came to Roanoke to attend National Business College and received his degree in Business Administration. He then worked for ten years at Appalachian Power Company's General Offices in Roanoke in the Accounting and Transportation Department and served in the Virginia Army National Guard as a Sergeant (E5). In 1973, Ron began his estate career real with the late James L. Trinkle of C.W. Francis & Son Realtors, earning many recognitions sales and awards, all multiple years in a row. real estate career as He was dedicated to helping families find the perfect home and enjoyed working with so many individuals in our community. He was further recognized for his achievements by receiving the Roanoke Valley Sales and Marketing Executives Distinguished Sales Award. In 1980, Ron received his Certified Residential Brokerage Manager designation, and he and his late brother, Jeffrey L. Owens, co-founded Owens & Company Realtors that same year.



nity as an Associate Broker and Vice President of Owens & Company Realtors for the next twenty-four years. Ron always attributed his real estate success to his "daily dependence upon and trust in God," and his dedication to the people in his community, and the Real Estate profession led to Owens & Company Realtors becoming the largest residential Real Estate Brokerage Firm in Virginia west of Every Richmond. year after founding Owens & Company Realtors, his company received the Roanoke Valley Association of Realtors Honor Firm Distinguished and Service Award, he truly enjoyed contributing to and participating in numerous civic, charitable, and minisfaith-based try organizations in the Roanoke Valley and at Smith Mountain Lake. He was appointed as past Chairman of the Virginia Real Estate Board and served as co-chair of the Board Education Advisory Council to help in establishing licensure and continuing education requirements

Ron cherished his relationship with God, and the opportunity to share his faith and love of Christ with those around him. He gave much of his time as Board Chairman of the Roanoke Valley Child Evangelism Fellowship and was able to share the word of God with so many for over forty years. Ron was also able to touch many

lives in the name of Christ as a member of the Roanoke West Camp of Gideons International. His love for missions was inspired by Christ's last command in the Bible to take the Gospel to all Nations! He continued to reach others and share the Christian faith as a Board Member of **Christ Life Ministries** and currently served as a trustee member Trinity Baptist of Church and Trini-Christian School ty Stuart, Virginia. in Through his numerous acts of service and acts of faith, Ron was able to contribute so much to his local community of Roanoke, and his home community of Patrick County. He resided in Roanoke City and was a recipient of the Historic Preservation Award given by the city. He still maintained the family farm in the Five Forks area of Stuart and spent most weekends there. Ron's fellowship will be greatly missed by many.

Moody Funeral Home is serving the family. A graveside service to celebrate Ron's life will be held at Creasey's Chapel for the state's real Church Cemetery loestate licenses. His cated at 73 Creasey Chapel Rd, Stuart, an Associate Broker VA. Pastor Chad Harcontinued in 2004 rison will be officiatwhen Owens & Coming along with Paspany Realtors was tors Tammy Franklin sold to Long & Fosand Bob Alderman ter Realtors, and he at 11:00 AM on Febwould continue helpruary 21, 2024. The ing families in their family requests that home search for the those wishing to make next nineteen years. a memorial contribu-Being a dedicated tion do so to: Trinity and passionate per-Christian Church, son of the Christian P.O. Box 160, Stuart, VA 24171, Child faith, Ron first found love of Christ Evangelism Fellowship of The Roanoke hispar-Valley, P.O. Box 202, ents and family in his hometown and at Roanoke, VA 24002, Shenandoah Baptist The Gideons Roanoke Church in Roanoke City West Camp, P.O. where he gave his life Box 3329, Roanoke, to Christ and served VA 24015 or Good for 37Samaritan Hospice, years. Above all else, 2408 Electric Road, Roanoke, VA 24018. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Elizabeth Mitchell Warren

Elizabeth Mitchell Warren passed away peacefully atThe Franklin Health and Rehab Center in Rocky Mount on Sunday afternoon February 4th, 2024. She was 87 years old.

Born in Danville, Virgina, Elizabeth grew up in Henry, Virginia and moved to Martinsville when she was in high school.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Robert K. Mitchell Jr., and Kathlyn Gaynell Meeks Mitchell; two sisters, Shirley Mitchell Sutphin and Kathlyn Mitchell Foster; two brothers, Robert Kerr Mitchell, III and Timothy Hill Mitchell.

She is survived by three brothers, William Edward Mitchell, Thomas Franklin Mitchell and Jack Terrill Mitchell; sons, Eugene (Gene) Mitchell Warren (Laura) and John Richard Warren (Karmon); four grandchildren, Caroline Warren Montgomery

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Myra W. Heath, aged 85, on February 5, 2024. Born on May 4, 1938, in Lawsonville, NC, she lived a life marked by kindness, compassion, and spirituality.

She was a member of High Point Baptist Church and a lifelong advocate for animals. She provided sanctuary and healing to those harmed or abandoned, reflecting her belief in kindness to all of God's creations. Her warm smile and gentle nature will be fondly remembered by all who knew

(Rick), Charles Mitchell Warren, John Alexander Warren and Elliott Michael Warren; two great-grandchildren, Thomas Fort Montgomery and Mary Camp Montgomery. Elizabeth graduated

from Martinsville High School and Stratford College. She received a Master's Degree in English Reading from The University of Virginia and a Master's Degree in English Creative Writing from Gardner Webb University. She spent 28 years teaching English at Patrick County High School and coaching

Myra W. Heath



her.

Myra was preceded in death by her husband, Nash Heath; her parents, Curtis and Ada Conner; and her brother, Phillip Conner.

She is survived by her less lives she touched.

Betty Joe Roberson Thomas

Her passion was in the classroom, whether it be teaching the class or taking a course. She dedicated numerous hours to tutoring students in reading who had entered the high school ranks unable to read. However, her greatest accomplishment was raising her two sons as a single parent and seeing them through college. Thanks Mom! The family would

their academic team.

like to thank the staff at TLC Adult Home and the medical staff at Franklin Health & Rehabilitation Center for their comforting care during her final days.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church, 146 East Main Street, Martinsville, Va., 24112

Services will be held at a later date.

Norris Funeral Services, Inc. and Crematory, Martinsville, VA is serving the Warren family.

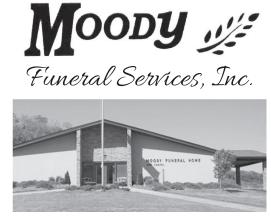
children, Joyce Singleton, Denise Churchwell, Kathryn Cates, Jonny Heath, and Brad Heath; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; beloved sister, Karen Conner; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A celebration of her life will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, February 24th, at Moody Funeral Home, Stuart, VA. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to a charity of your choice.

We will miss her deeply but take comfort in knowing her legacy will live on in the count-

grandchildren, Cary Grace James and husband, Josh, Andrew Perry Clark and wife, Allison; one great grandson, Miles James; and a niece, Barbara Midkiff and family. A memorial service will be held Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 2:00 PM at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor Rick Randall officiating. Burial will be private. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to New Hope Church of the Brethren, 2007 New Hope Rd, Stuart, VA 24171. The family would like to thank the many friends and neighbors who helped since Sherman's passing, especially his brother, Lewis, and friends that became family; Cristy Allen, Allison and Corby Boyd, and Wayne and Teresa Stevens.

successfully faithfully Ron served his commu-



his

alongside

"We appreciate the confidence you have" shown in us for over 60 years."

202 West Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, VA Phone 276-694-3145 www.moodyfuneralservices.com

> Pete Campbell, Manager Terri S. Wood, Assistant Manager

Mrs. Betty Joe Roberson Thomas, age 79 of Stuart, passed away Sunday, February 11, 2024, at her home. She was born in Patrick County on July 19, 1944, to the late Edgar P. Roberson and Edna Foley Roberson. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Sherman Eugene Thomas; a granddaughter, Anna Caroline Clark; one sister, Carole Gene Triplett; and an infant brother, Kermit Edgar Roberson. Betty Joe retired from Hanesbrands with 40 years of service. She was a member of New Hope

Church of the Brethren.

She was truly Daddy's

girl who enjoyed gar-

dening, fishing, spoiling

her grandchildren, and

being "GG" to her great

grandson, Miles. She

was famous for her fudge

Services, Inc. and Crematory



and apple cakes that she always made every Christmas. She loved sharing her garden with friends and family, was quick to take a meal to a neighbor experiencing a loss, and was frequently called on to make fried chicken, gravy, and biscuits for family meals.

Surviving are her daughter and son-inlaw, Sandra and Lee Clark of Roanoke; two

www.norrisfuneral.com

129 Howell Lane Stuart, VA 276-694-2012



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OBITUARY SUBMISSION DEADLINE MONDAY AT NOON

PATRICK PULPITS

We are living in a plastic world

Van Yandell

Genesis 1: 1-3 "In the beginning to biodegrade. God created the heaven and the face of the waters. And God said, years. Why can't containers be? Let there be light: and there was light."

eration," my reality is somewhat fiction is fiction. Some people in different from the world of Gener- our society (young and old) have ation Z. The Z generation preced- been raised to be discerning. We ed Generation Alpha and both of have determined to be analytical those people groups are ones total- but practical in decision making. ly immersed in an age of technologies such as Artificial Intelligence something is a decision we all have and Virtual Reality.

ing is real, in which everything is plastics, artificial intelligence or artificial, is living in a simulated reality and results in a distorted view and attitude concerning concepts once considered sacred.

cartoons were not reality. Mice abilities to think and reason? Simcould not talk and coyotes could ulated actions distort our vision of not fly or be blown up and come real versus fiction. back to life. Reality was one thing and fantasy was another.

eos are so realistic it is difficult for limitations set forth by the new even the most discerning to realize mindsets. Variances in perspecthe deception. Will the Hollywood tives concerning the faith, along actors soon be out of work because with the permissiveness, and an of high-tech animation and Artificial Intelligence?

People of my generation well remember a time when anything made of plastic was cheap and in many cases, considered junk. In today's world of computer generated reason must be applied to some algorithms, parameters and polymers, we exist in a plastic reality.

Many parts of automobiles, appliances and other products that intellect and the emotion of the were once made of metal are now plastic.

Anything plastic is produced by extracting the elements from world we may find it advantageous a natural product such as petroleum, soybeans, natural gas or coal and recombining the chemical elements into a polymer (plastic).

world of AI, VR and synthetic (unnatural) materials, we produce not only different products but also thew 24: 6) of Covid, the Bible different attitudes and mindsets. think of the younger ones, we 13). The Bible also teaches to quarsometimes ask the question, "Why antine the sick (Leviticus 15: 36). would anyone think the way they do?" The answer (whether sim- teria or virus was when Leviticus ple or complex) is, they exist in a was written. Only our Creator different reality than the one in could have issued such a statewhich we grew up and then grew old. us on planet earth. In the area of us "the life of an organism is in the technological advancement and in- blood," is a dramatic statement of frastructure, we may as well live fact to the most discerning mind. on three different planets. With the U.S being in the middle of this 8) became known to mariners in scheme, sub-Saharan Africa, parts the 1600's. King David had written of Indochina or Central American of them 2600 years previously. jungles, are like going back to the Stone Age. several cities in China, South Ko- The first law of thermodynamics rea and other Asian cities, Amer- states that matter is constant. ica appears to exist in the 1930's. When God said "it is finished" The technology seen, especially in (Genesis 2: 2) referring to creation the infrastructure, is amazing and He verified the first law of thermoexceeds anything I've seen in the dynamics. The second law is the U.S. at this point in time. the three geographic areas? Tech- forms of life. Chaos cannot evolve nology of course! And it has run into order. away with our common sense and sense of values. I was sitting in a earth is round. Job 26: 7 verifies waiting room recently and nine of the earth floats free in space. Job ten people there were deeply bur- 9: 8 tells us the universe is conied into their phones. have invaded the food products we stars in the universe to even begin consume, the water we drink and to count. even the air we breathe. We are living in an artificial environment concepts and products, our reality and a simulated world. vealed the plastic waste products tion is only by a faith based belief in the oceans of the world. In an that Christ Jesus was crucified for article a few years ago, I discussed the remission of sin and resurrectthe problem of the waste products ed. Now that IS reality! (garbage) in America and much of that is in the form of plastics. A few trial Arts teacher, an ordained gosplastic products are considered to *pel evangelist and commissioned* be biodegradable. The problem is, *missionary*.

it takes some plastics 10,000 years

If the environmentalists feel a earth. And the earth was without need to protest, they should conform, and void; and darkness was sider the damage plastics are doupon the face of the deep. And ing to this planet. Toilet paper the Spirit of God moved upon the has been biodegradable for many

Where does this leave the Christian perspective? To the sincere Being from the "Boomer Gen- Christian the Bible is reality and

To believe or not to believe in to make in our lives. Could our To live in a world in which noth- perspectives regarding technology, virtual reality influence our abilities to make a logical decision?

Could living in a world in which so many of the products and con-In the 1950's and 60's we knew cepts are artificial influence our

The Christian dedicated to reaching the unchurched for the In today's world, animated vid- Lord Jesus can be hindered by the "anything goes" way of thinking hinder the Christian objective. We must reach the unchurched but do it in accordance with Biblical values.

> To reach the lost, logic and non-believers. Knowing of course, the Bible is the reality of our Creator, we must deal with both the target group we are attempting to reach.

To reach those in this artificial to address the science in the Bible. Simply because so many still believe science and God are at odds, while in reality they are not only When we combine the effects of a compatible but in complete agreement.

With the recent pestilence (Matteaches us to wash our hands un-When the older generations der running water (Leviticus 15) Man did not know what a bacment.

BIBLE TRIVIA BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of 1 Peter (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. What was a god of the Philistines that had a man's face and hands, but the body and tail of a fish? Bullock, Elohim, Dagon, Baal-gad

3. Who slew a giant that had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot when he defied Israel? Sibbechai, Cyrus, Silas, Jonathan

4. From Proverbs 22, what is a good name better than? Great riches, Scorn, Its own reward. Lust

5. What town was home to Jesse's boys? Gilgal, Jericho, Hebron, Bethlehem

6. On which day of creation did dry ground appear? Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Dagon, 3) Jonathan, 4) Great riches, 5) Bethlehem, 6) Third

"Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.

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Super Crossword-**RULING PARTY**

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With so many blood borne dis-There are over eight billion of eases, Leviticus 17: 11 which tells

The rivers in the seas (Psalm 8:

The science of physics and creation are verified in the first and On the other end of the scale, second laws of thermodynamics. Law of Entropy which complete-What makes the differences in ly discredits evolution from lower

In the words of Isaiah 40: 22, the stantly expanding and Jeremiah Plastics (products of technology) 33: 22, states there are too many

To exist in a world of artificial has changed. But the Word of God A recent news broadcast re- will never change. Eternal salva-

Van Yandell is a retired Indus-

CLASSIFIED

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recruitment and retention is preferred. Ability to keep track of and follow through on a variety of details. Bachelor's degree in human services social work or related field is preferred. At least two years' experience in a health or human service setting, that required extensive contact with the public, is preferred. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office Products. Criminal background check is required. Position is 40 hours per week, with health insurance benefits. Submit resume to Southern Area Agency on Aging, 204 Cleveland Avenue, Martinsville, VA 24112 by 2/26/24. SAAA is an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Employer.

and coordinate services.

Experience in volunteer

Care Coordination Assistant – Full time with benefits. Nonprofit organization is seeking individual who will serve as the initial and primary contact for callers and visitors who are seeking information about resources in the community and/or application for services for

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and written communication skills are essential. Proficient computer skills are required. Degree in a human services field or comparable experience is preferred. Criminal background check is required. Send resume to Southern Area Agency on Aging, 204 Cleveland Avenue, Martinsville, VA 24112 by 2/26/24. Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer.

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HELP WANTED

Health Education Coordinator – will plan, administer and coordinate evidence-based health education programs, at community sites, for older adults in a four county/two city service area. Training will be provided. Requires excellent organization, time management and communication skills. Ability to plan, develop



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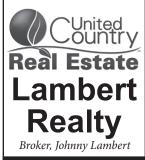
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Hospital =

(cont. from page 1)

Simms wrote in a Nov. 17 email to Suhail, who of payment plan if possible – I wanted to get a top priority, according to a release. also is CEO/Clinical Dean of American International Clinical Group & CEO Psychiatric Group Metropolitan Behavior Associates, both based in Chicago.

"Please confirm that we and our vendor are granted access to this privately owned property and provide a key so we can proceed," Simms wrote to Suhail. Other recipients included in the thread of correspondence were Hylak-Reinholtz; Del. Wren Williams; Stuart Town Manager Bryce Simmons, Pat Cooper, economic development director and Ron Haley, who serves on the EDA Board.

In a Dec. 21 email to Simms, Suhail asked, "Any traction on EDA taking over the property before the end of the year? Let me know if it's a possibility and we can negotiate some sort

Clark Gas & Oil

some tax reductions this year, that's the reason I wanted to do the deal in 2023."

"No, as explained on the phone, the EDA is in the process of applying for a Brownfield planning grant and Brownfield grant extension," Simms replied,

Foresight officials were negotiating with the county on a proposed donation of the hospital property. In exchange, the county was asked to pay \$815,000, which is a fraction of the amount spent by Foresight, according to previous reports.

Once it was announced that the hospital would not reopen as planned, county officials said they were working to develop a Healthcare Access Committee and a Mobile Healthcare Unit, and identified healthcare access as hospital not reopening."

"The lack of a hospital is negatively impacting our EMS services and leading to a decline in volunteerism due to the required length of rescue calls. We are committed to working with local, regional, state, and federal programs to mitigate these issues to the best of our ability," the release stated.

"We are extremely grateful to Connect Health + Wellness for bringing their Mobile Clinic to the Walmart in Stuart on a weekly basis this month and strongly encourage citizens to take advantage of this opportunity," a release from the county stated. "We also want to thank the other healthcare providers who have reached out and we have had the opportunity to talk to since the announcement of the

(cont. from page 1)

lot of money over the years, Clark said it's not as enjoyable as it once was due to inflation and other factors.

However, he said he considers the agencies supported with funding to be ministries.

"They're really helping a broad spectrum of folks who are struggling," he said.

Eighteen organizations and six schools received the donations.

Organizations include Safety Rope; the Reynolds Homestead; Caring Hearts Free Clinic of Patrick County; Patrick County Food Bank; Patrick County Alzheimer's Association, LLC; Patrick County Developmental Center; PARC Workshop; Dan River Basin Association (DRBA); Ararat Volunteer Fire Department; Meadows of Dan Volunteer Fire Department; Moorefield Store Volunteer Fire Department; Patrick Springs Volunteer Fire Department; Patrick Henry Volunteer Fire Department; Smith River Rescue Squad; Stuart Volunteer Fire Department; Vesta Rescue Squad; Woolwine Volunteer Fire Department, and JEB Stuart Rescue Squad.

The six schools are Meadows of Dan Elementary School; Patrick Springs Primary School; Stuart Elementary School; Hardin Reynolds Memorial School; Blue Ridge Elementary School, and Woolwine Elementary School.

Since the company started the annual donations, Clark said "over \$1 million for sure" has been donated.

In total, Clark said \$102,500 was donated this year in the three counties in Clark Gas & Oil's service area, which in addition to Patrick, includes Floyd and Carroll counties.



School principals attended the event to receive a donation for their respective school.



Local volunteer fire and rescue squads received donations at the February 14 event.



Eighteen organizations and six schools received \$59,000 in donations from Clark Gas & Oil.

Ohio-based company to pay millions in misbranding veterinary prescription case

Covetrus North America LLC, a compa- sure prescription drugs are kept within a \$1,000,000 to the Virginia Department ny based in Dublin, Ohio, which sells vet- controlled chain of distribution and to pre- of Health Professions, as well as a fine of erinary products to customers across the vent diversion and inappropriate use. To- \$1,000,000. In addition, Covetrus is obli-United States, pled guilty to causing the day's result demonstrates my Office's com- gated to keep in place appropriate compliintroduction and delivery of misbranded mitment to holding those companies and ance measures to prevent future violations. veterinary prescription drugs into inter- corporations accountable when they seek state commerce. As part of the agreement, Covetrus will pay over \$23 million in criminal fines and forfeitures. the Western District of Virginia takes the distribution of misbranded prescription drugs seriously," United States Attorney Christopher R. Kavanaugh said. "Covetrus shipped over \$20 million in prescription drugs to unauthorized end-users in violation of federal laws that are designed to en-

to profit by breaking the law." According to court documents, from Courthouse in Abingdon. March 2019 to December 2021, Covetrus "The United States Attorney's Office for shipped over \$20 million in prescription drugs from their non-pharmacy locations throughout the United States to end-users that were not authorized to receive prescription drugs. Shipments from non-pharmacy locations to non-authorized end-us- is prosecuting the case. ers or locations are deemed "misbranded."

EGAL

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1052 UNION BRIDGE ROAD, FERRUM, VA 24088. In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated June 30, 2010, in the original principal amount of \$104,295.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Patrick County, Virginia as Instrument No. 100001137. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Patrick County, 101 West Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, Virginia, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on May 6, 2024, at 1:15 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL OF THAT CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND, TOGETHER WITH THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON AND APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO BELONGING, LYING AND BEING IN SMITH RIVER MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF PATRICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, BEING DESIGNATED AS TRACT 6A CONTAINING 5.412 ACRES AS SHOWN ON THAT PLAT OF SURVEY ENTITLED "KATIE V. LANE" PREPARED BY TERRY A. WALLER, L.L.S., DATED SEPTEMBER 28, 2008, OF RECORD IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PATRICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AS INSTRUMENT NUMBER 0802379.

TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www. bwwsales.com. VA-368816-1.

Covetrus will forfeit \$21,534,091, pay

Sentencing is scheduled for May 8, at 10:30 a.m.at the United States Federal

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration - Office of Criminal Investigations and the Virginia State Police investigated the case, with the assistance of the Virginia Department of Health Professions.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Randy Ramseyer



LEGAL

ABC NOTICE

DKP Properties Inc trading as Dry Pond Convenience, 2236 Dry Pond HWY, Stuart, Patrick County, VA 24171-3882

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA AL COHOLIC BEVERAGE CON-TROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Off-Premises of Beer and Wine license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages

Harjot Paul, 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.

LEGAL TRUSTEE SALE OF

1422 Fayerdale Drive, Stuart, VA 24171

In execution of the Deed of Trust dated December 7, 2009, in the original principal amount of \$72,070.00, recorded as Inst. 090002580, in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the County of Patrick, Virginia, default having occurred in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured and at the request of the holder of the note, the undersigned, as Substitute Trustees, any of whom may act, will sell at public auction at the front entrance of the Circuit Court for the County of Patrick on March 14, 2024, at 12:00 noon, the property located at the above address and described as Lot 39 containing 0.689 acre as shown on plat recorded as Inst 0902579, County of Patrick. TERMS: CASH. PROPERTY SOLD AS IS WITH SPECIAL WARRANTY OF TITLE. A deposit of \$5,000.00 or 10% of the successful bid amount (whichever is lower) will be required immediately of the successful bidder, in cashier's check or certified funds only payable to or signed over to "DOLANREID PLLC, TRUSTEE," balance due within 15 days from date of sale. No personal checks accepted. Sale is subject to post sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower filed for and obtained bankruptcy protection, entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, or if trustee is unable to complete the sale, or if it is set aside or not fully completed for any reason except purchaser's default, the sale shall be null and void, and the purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Upon purchaser's default, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property resold at the risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, reservations and conditions, if any, of record, as well as inchoate liens and any other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. Real estate taxes will be adjusted to the date of sale. All costs of conveyance, deed, examination of title, recording charges, grantor's tax and possession will be at the expense of the purchaser. All risks of casualty immediately pass to the successful bidder. Time is of the essence. Winning bidder must sign a memorandum of sale immediately upon completion of sale. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. Trustee's affidavit and a copy of the notice of sale available at the foreclosure sale. The opening bid is not announced until the sale. Current sale status available at dolanreid.com/foreclosure-sales. THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

For Information Contact

DolanReid PLLC and G. Benny Moore, Substitute Trustee(s) 12610 Patrick Henry Dr., Ste. D, Newport News, VA 23602; (757) 320-0255

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Meetings

Wednesday, Feb. 21

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

Thursday, Feb. 22

The Economic Development Authority meets at 7 p.m. in the Second Floor Conference Room, Patrick County Administration Building.

Friday, Feb. 23

The Stuart Farmers Market vendor organizational Meeting begins at 11 a.m. in the Town Office, 100 Patrick Avenue, to discuss the upcoming market season. Call (276) 694-3811 with questions.

Monday, March 11

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

Thursday, March 14

The Patrick County School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the school board administration building.

Events

Friday, Feb. 23

Wayside Community Church, located at 3520 Wayside Road, Stuart, will hold a Friday Night Music and Fellowship event starting at 6:30 p.m. Music will be by Grace n' Grass musicians and guest speaker Pastor Tim Crotts. Soups and sandwiches will be served afterwards.

Moonshine Hollow Hike, 10 a.m., Visitor Center at Fairy Stone State Park; Fayerdale Missing Town, 2:30 p.m. at Shelter 4, at the park.

Saturday, Feb. 24

The Patrick County Democratic Committee meets at 10:45 a.m. at the Patrick County Library, with a group lunch after.

Walk the trails at Fairy Stone State Park, 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Meet in the Amphitheater Trailhead Parking Lot.

Sunday, February 25

Mountain View/Horse Camp Trail, 9 a.m. at the Amphitheater Trailhead Parking Lot, Fairy Stone State Park; Iron Mine, 1:30 p.m. 3352.

in Iron Mine Parking Lot.

Tuesday, Feb. 27

VFW Post 7800 will hold its next meeting at the post building. A meal will be held at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7 p.m. Anyone meeting the requirements for the VFW is welcome to join.

Patrick County Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) meets at 4 p.m. in the Patrick County School Board Office in the Conference Room.

Wednesday, Feb. 28

will be closed. It will reopen for normal business hours on Thursday, Feb. 29.

Saturday, March 2

A community breakfast will be held at JEB Stuart Rescue Squad from 7-10 a.m. Plates are \$8. Dine in, carry out, and curb service options are available. Orders can be placed by calling 276-694-6171.

Springs of Life Camp hosts a Scentsy Bingo Fundraiser. Doors open at 6pm, games start at 7 p.m. Concessions are available.

Saturday, March 9

A Hunters Education Class will be held at 10 Via Ave in Stuart from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is for hunters 12 and up to be able to obtain a hunting license. Lunch will be provided. Register at dwr.Virginia.gov. For questions call Jonathan Scott at 276-229-1700.

The Patrick County Master Gardeners Association will host its 15th annual Gardening Symposium at Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$10, payable at the door. Horticulturists Eli Roberson and Eric Jackson are featured. Vendors on site. Light refreshments provided. Visit mgpcva@gmail.com more information.

Ongoing

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-

The Patrick County Alzheimer's Group LLC meets at 7 p.m. the first Monday of every month at the Alzheimer's office at 109 Buena Vista Ave in Stuart. New members or volunteers are welcome to join. For more information, call (276) 693-6018.

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 The Patrick County Public Animal Shelter held on Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Quilted Colors. For more information, call 276-694-3020 or email patrickcountyquilters@gmail.com.

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

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

Introduction to Zen Meditation and Zen Buddhism at the Blue Ridge Regional Library Stuart site, second and fourth Tuesday, 1:30 2:30 p.m.

The Patrick County Recreation Department offers a Tai Chi Flow class for seniors on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-4 p.m. in the Hooker Building at Rotary Field in Stuart. No experience needed; wear comfortable clothing and sneakers. Registration is not required. Call the Park Office at (276) 694-3917 for more information.

Willis Gap Community Center will hold an Open Jam Acoustic on Fridays, doors open at 6 p.m. Food is available. Old time country, bluegrass, and gospel music from 7-10 p.m., with a 50/50 drawing around 8:15 p.m.

Messianic Bible Study, Fridays from 6-7:30 p.m. 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.

NOTICE

Statewide burning law now in effect

The Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) and fire departments across Virginia issued a reminder about spring fire season and raise awareness of the statewide burning law, in effect from Feb. 15 through April 30. The law prohibits outdoor burning before 4 p.m. when the fire is within 300 feet of the woods or dry grass.

Although Virginia also has a wildfire season in the fall, more than 60 percent of the Commonwealth's annual average of 700 wildfires occur in the spring. Rising temperatures, dry and windy weather, and abundant fuels such as frost-killed vegetation and dead leaves, increase the potential for wildfires and make

Violation of the burning law is a Class-3 misdemean or and punishable with a fine up to \$500. Those who allow a fire to escape may be liable for suppression costs and any resulting property damage.

The burning law applies to all open-air fires such as debris burning, campfires and charcoal grills like those found in park settings. This law does not apply to charcoal or gas-fired barbecue grills. Some exceptions to the law are made for campfires at Virginia State Parks. To learn more about Virginia's 4 p.m. burning law and fire prevention, visit DOF's website: https://dof.virginia. gov/wildland-prescribed-fire/fire-laws/4-pm-burninglaw/.

"Last fall, Virginia experienced extreme fire activity that provided a stark reminder of the importance of safe burning practices," said DOF Chief of Fire and Emergency Response John Miller. "Simple safety measures are easy to follow and significantly reduce the likelihood of an escaped fire, the number one cause of wildfires."

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: •

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging HOO BOY!

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them harder to extinguish.

In addition to the statewide 4 p.m. burning law, individual cities and counties may have specific burn laws, bans or restrictions. Check with local officials in your area before burning.

Keep these things in mind this spring fire season:

*Burning is allowed between 4 p.m. and midnight as long as proper precautions are taken

* Never leave a fire unattended

* Avoid burning during dry and windy conditions

* No fire may be started, and no fuels can be added to a fire after midnight

* Have a shovel, rake and a charged hose on hand to control the fire

Kelsey Fain

REALTOR

* Call 911 if a fire escapes your control



Call me today.

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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



VA General Assembly OKs bills to develop small modular nuclear reactors

Edwin J. Viera

Virginia News Connection Virginia's General Assembly has approved legislation to develop small modular nuclear reactors.

The bills passed both chambers despite concerns about how this affects ratepayers. Senate Bill 454 allows utility companies to begin billing customers during a research and development phase, which means ratepayers can be billed for engineering, site development and other costs before utility companies get a power plant permit.

Peter Anderson, state energy policy director for Appalachian Voices, said Virginia should learn from other states with similar legislation.

"Georgia was developing a new conventional nuclear reactor," Anderson pointed out. "They passed some legislation kind of like this jor success rate in Virginia. Last one, and what they ended up with year, the state's General Assembly was a project that ultimately came considered a bill creating a small online about \$20 billion over budget modular reactor pilot program. The



and about 15 years after the initial in-service date."

The reactors have not seen a ma-

bill passed in the Senate but failed in the House. Even if the bills are signed into law, the State Corporation Commission has the final say in granting utility companies a permit to build one.

Along with concerns about how

the measure affects ratepayers, there are environmental concerns. A 2022 Stanford University study found the reactors produce more volumes and highly reactive waste than traditional light-water reactor plants. Anderson noted electric grids need to meet certain specifications as part of the clean-energy future.

"The electric grid needs to be carbon-free, and it needs to be reliable and it needs to be affordable for people in their everyday lives," Anderson asserted. "If you're not doing all three at the same time, something's broken. It's not an easy thing to do."

While some are uncertain about nuclear energy's place in a climate-smart future, Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin has made it part of his "all of the above" energy plan. The plan calls for using several other energy sources such as natural gas, biomass, and renewable sources

Christiansburg **DMV to Temporarily Close for Renovation**

Christiansburg DMV Custom- vation, to reopen Monday, virginia.gov. March 25.

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During the reno- For vehicle-related customers transactions, such li-Cus- partner in the Radbusiness fice, located at 619 Improvements to Drive. tertop design, interior paint, and new interior and exterior lighting. In addition, the restrooms updated will be and parking lot will resealed be and striped.



Alzheimer's group to hold talent show on March 16

"Patrick County's Got Talent" is the underlying theme for the talent show that Patrick County Alzheimer's Group, LLC is planning for March 16 at 7 p.m. at Patrick County High School auditorium. Registration must be completed by March 8.

The Group, which is celebrating its twentieth year of serving Alzheimer clients and their caretakers in Patrick and the surrounding area, held their first talent show last year, and it was a

great success with 26 performers.

Tina and Herbert Conner were the featured performers last year, and this year Michael Fain, Patrick County's own country music singer and song writer, has volunteered to open the show.

All ages are invited to perform and Tony Dixon. in the show and prizes will be presented by age groups. Each perfor- available in the communities and mance time will be limited to 3 to 5 in The Enterprise. Calls will be acminutes per act. This is a great op- cepted to (276) 693-6018 or (276) portunity for young and old to join 694-7358. in the fun and perform before a live available, with BBQ sandwiches topping the list.



cluding musicians, singers, dancers, gymnasts, actors, comedians, magicians, etc. are invited to participate. Judges and the emcee will be local volunteers. Co-sponsors of the event are Blue Ridge Therapy Connection, the Landmark Center

Flyers for registration will be

The Alzheimer's group appreciaudience. Admission is by donation ates everyone who helps make this and concession selections will be fundraiser possible, and invites new volunteers to join the group whose motto is "Together...we can make a difference.'

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

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Poor Farmer's Market

(cont. from page 1)



Poor Farmer's Market in the early days. (Contributed photos)

with Larry Hutchens, "Hutchens Petroleum is still providing us with gas."

She recalled the building "was built by A.D. Hopkins Oil Company in Stuart as a Gulf Service station in 1962. Between the years of 1962 and 1984, over 30 operators tried their hand at running the business as a full service gas station and auto mechanic shop. The new business would be a country store, produce market, a wholesale produce business, and gas station," Shelor wrote.

The first customer paid \$5 for gas on March 1, 1984, Shelor said, and recalled that her "hands trembled" when she put the five dollar bill in the cash register because she understood "the magnitude of the moment. This business would be her life, all her life, for better and for worse," she wrote.

"Poor Farmers Market did not take off right away. It takes years to overcome the loss of goodwill when a business has never been a success in a particular location. But the fall tourist season was always extremely busy, and the produce market made enough profit in the fall for the business to survive the winters, but just barely enough," Shelor wrote.

Shelor bought the building in 1986, after selling her house to pay for the downpayment. Shelor and then her 4 year-old daughter, Casey, moved into a tiny house behind the store in January 1986.

When she first started out, Shelor said her daughter, Casey Davis, was a baby. Casey literally grew up in the store. Felecia was 21 and Casey was 2 years-old when Poor Farmers Market became their whole life. There was no money and no time to do anything but work.

Shelor recalled that she "worked 12 hours a day, seven days a week, and Casey was there every day, until she was mature enough to stay" in their little house out back by herself.



Tim Davis, Felecia Shelor's son-in-law. "Tim, Casey, Trinity, and I are the management team for several business endeavors in Meadows of Dan," Shelor said.

get up we're hungry," Shelor said.

Over the four decades she's been in business, Shelor said Poor Farmer's Market has gained numerous regular customers.

"The vast majority of our customers are repeat regulars, even regular tourists who come here. Most of our customers have been coming here many years, and many of them have been coming here for 40 years," she said.

After 'big box' stores such as Walmart and Lowe's emerged, "I had to change the business to survive because I couldn't compete with them on those things," Shelor said, adding that is when Poor Farmer's Market shifted into a more country store type business instead of a general goods

When she first started running the business, Shelor said she knew nothing about running her own business.

"I grew up in this business. I didn't know anything when I started. I was 21 when I started, and I've learned everything about running a business since I've started. I had to erything about it," she said.



Rain. Casey and Banner Davis, Felecia Shelor's daughter and grandchildren, at Poor Farmers Market. Casey is an ER doctor in Mount Airy, N.C.



Trinity Goad, who has been working at the store for about 30 years.

whole building was sided with roughcut pine. Poor Farmers Market took a new turn in 1993, with a much bigger food service operation, an increased focus on gifts and unique products, and an expansion of country foods and locally made products for locals and tourists.'

Owing to the success of Poor Farmer's Market, Shelor was able to purchase and open the nearby Concord Corner Store about eight years ago.

"I tried to help sell it for many years and couldn't get a buyer and if that big, old, brick building had" continued dilapidating, "it would have been very devastating for the whole community," she said. "As time went on, I knew what we could put in there that would work. It's a little more upper scale than here."

Nowadays, it's harder to find produce to sell because many of the farmers that supplied the store have died, Shelor said.

"There's not a lot of orchardists coming up and there's not any farmers coming up, so our suppliers are drying up. It's really hard for us to keep it going because of the lack of suppliers on every level," she said.



Felecia Shelor and her daughter, Casey, circa 1988.

tions also are impacting her business and others.

"We've moved into a corporate economy. There are not enough suppliers that will come to a place like Meadows of Dan. Another problem is government regulations that don't fit the size of our business. We're in trouble because of government regulations," she said.

Her determination, as well as her family that also now includes Casey's husband, Tim Davis and their children, Rain and Banner, as well as long-time employees like Trinity Goad, keep Shelor focused on her goal.

Goad, she said, started working at the store when he was 15. Thirty years later, he's still a valued employee.

"When he came to work here, we didn't know we were going to spend all of our lives together in the store working together," Shelor said, laugh-

Shelor would slip out to check on her daughter in between customers.

Davis also recalls growing up in the store.

"Mom would have to open, and she was the only one, and she'd run this place 14 hours a day. She overslept one time, and the locals were coming knocking on the door telling us to get up and come open the deli," she said, laughing.

"If I overslept the locals are knocking on my bedroom window out back,

After overcoming financial struggles in the latter 1980s, Shelor put her store and home up for collateral and borrowed \$50,000 in 1993 to pay for an expansion.

"Poor Farmers Market tripled in size with the addition to the back of the store in 1993. The kitchen and deli, retail space, an office, and a big storage area were added to the back of the old Gulf Station," she wrote. "The

Shelor is actively seeking farmers and those who have home gardens to buy produce, as she continues her goal of ensuring the business is viable.

"The struggle now is more than it's ever been in 40 years," she said.

In addition, Shelor said the lack of store help and government regulaing

Despite any current or future challenges, Shelor is intent on her goals of providing for the community, her employees and her family.

"We're trying to keep the community going so that people like my grandchildren can live here in Patrick County and have an opportunity to make money," Shelor said. "We're trying to hold it for them."

For more, visit https://www.facebook.com/poorfarmersmarket.

New census reveals a decrease in farms and farmland

sus of Agriculture data, Virginia is trending with the nation in terms of fewer farms and less farm acreage than in 2017, when the previous census was conducted.

In 2022 there were 38,995 farms in the commonwealth compared to 43,225 in 2017. Farm acreage was 7.3 million in 2022, down from almost 7.8 million in 2017.

In Virginia, the number of small and medium farms-those under 1,000 acres-all decreased in numbers. But farms from 1,000 to 5,000 or more acres increased slightly-from 1,340 in 2017 to 1,367 five years later.

Nationally, the number of farms and farm acreage also decreased from 2017 to 2022. According to the 2022 census, there were 141,733 fewer farms in 2022 than in 2017. The number of farm acres fell to 880 million, a loss of more than 20 million acres in five years.

white the warnings our members have been expressing for years," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "Increased regulations, rising supply costs, lack of available labor and weather disasters have all squeezed farmers to the point that many of them find it impossible to remain economically sustainable.

"Family farms not only help drive the economy, they allow the rest of the nation the freedom to pursue their dreams without worrying about whether there will be enough food in their pantries."

Average farm production expenses, which in-

According to the recently released 2022 Cen- clude things like equipment, crop inputs, livestock, animal feed, labor and more, increased across the nation and in Virginia as well.

> The census also found that the average age of farmers continues to increase. In the commonwealth, the average age of a farmer in the 2012 Census of Agriculture findings was 57.2. Ten years later, it had increased to 59.2.

> The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service conducts the Census of Agriculture every five years. The data collected provides valuable insights into demographics, economics, land use and activities on U.S. farms and ranches.

> In addition to tracking the number of farms and amount of farmland, the census tracks the value of agricultural products, the use of renewable energy-producing systems and characteristics of farm operators themselves.

'The Census of Agriculture provides critical "The latest census numbers put in black and information for USDA in its work to ensure farms of all types and sizes have the support that they need," said Tony Banks, senior assistant director of agriculture, development and innovation for Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. "The data provides a very important snapshot of agriculture's production and economic health, and is useful in documenting trends that can help direct state and national public policy."

> The first Census of Agriculture was conducted by the Census Bureau in 1840 in 26 states and the District of Columbia. In 1997, the agriculture census was transferred from the Cen

sus Bureau to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. The 2022 census is the 30th in the series and the sixth conducted by NASS.



Homecoming -

(cont. from page 1)



Several people lined Main Street as Lauren and her family rode by. Many are Lauren's classmates at PCHS



Classmates blew kisses, waved and cheered as Lauren and her parents drove past.



Confetti was part of the celebration Friday as Laren Worley and her family traveled to their home.





Led by first responders Lauren's motorcade came up Main Street on Friday.



A crowd of onlookers gathered in uptown Stuart Friday to welcome Lauren Worley home.

'ater-the cheapest me

Part 1

A few years ago, you could read this slogan on large posters in the streets of Vienna. Indeed, a lack of water can cause pain. If we drink a few glasses of water over our thirst, we feel noticeably better. Simply drinking water can resolve confusion. Anyone who has ever suffered from thirst in the desert knows what we're talking about. Why is water so important?

Water Balance

When nutrients are broken down, water is formed. out when drinking seawater. Together with hydration via drinks and food, it forms one side of the balance in relation to water absorption. The water loss occurs via the lungs, skin, kidneys and intestines. Consumption needs to be adequate to maintain a healthy balance. Drinking additional water beyond our thirst helps us to stimulate our body metabolism. Children naturally crave more drinks. Unfortunately, adults are less aware of thirst signals. Therefore, the water content in the cells decreases more and more with age. Chronic dehydration of the cells is the result, which can lead to symptoms like an illness. If the various signals of dehydration are not recognized, they are treated with medication. Hence the above saying makes sense: water - the cheapest medicine. A good way to check that you are getting enough water is to check your urine. During the day it should be clear. That doesn't apply to morning urine, it is more concentrated. The composition of the food also has an influence on the amount of water released. Increased salt and protein intake dramatically increases the

amount of water excreted. Therefore, the cells also dry

Structure of Water

Water is a special liquid. Even its unusual chemical and physical properties make this small molecule to a great helper in the human ecosystem. We all know the chemical structure H2O. Two hydrogen atoms are connected to an oxygen atom at a very special angle so that two oppositely charged poles are formed. This dipole characteristic is the prerequisite for the special property of water. It can form hydrogen bonds with many other substances. In this way it can dissolve substances, bind, transport, excrete, yes life processes are made only possible by water. By the high specific heat capacity and latent heat released with the evaporation of the water, our body is protected from temperature fluctuations.

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How Much Shall We Drink?

The body needs 6 to 8 glasses of water, a quarter of a liter. Alcohol, coffee, black tea, diuretic teas and caffeine-containing beverages should not be included in the fluid balance. They stimulate the body to excrete more water. In coffee houses you get therefore a glass of water with a cup of coffee.

The first glasses of water should be drunk immediately after getting up. This stimulates the elimination of kidneys and intestines. The first glasses after getting up can be compared to washing the gastrointestinal tract. Ideally, water should be consumed between meals. Start drinking about two hours after meals, and stop drinking half an hour before the main meals. If more water is drunk, thirst is better recognized.

Let us thank our Creator that we are allowed to live in countries where good drinking water is part of the quality of life and let us use it responsibly. Unfortunately, even in our part of the world, there are communities here and there where proper water supply is not always guaranteed.

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



New funding for parks, outdoor recreation projects available

Recreation will open grant rounds today for two the \$12 million may be made available. programs under the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

At least \$12 million will be available through the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Stateside Assistance Program, or LWCF.

The National Park Service Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program, or ORLP, is a national competition with about \$224 million available.

to fund 100% of their project while seeking periodic reimbursements.

Eligible applicants include state agencies, cities, counties, park authorities and federally or state-recognized Indian tribes.

A virtual informational session and application workshop for both programs will be held Feb. 21 at 1 p.m. Register at https://www.dcr. virginia.gov/recreational-planning/lwcf. After registering, you will receive a confirmation is \$300,000 with a minimum total project cost email with instructions for joining the webinar. of \$600,000. The maximum grant award is \$15 The webinar will be recorded and the recording million. will be made available online.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

program established to acquire, develop and re- the 2020 census, qualifying cities and towns

with a minimum total project cost of \$500,000. There is no maximum grant award amount.

An updated program manual, application materials, and applicant resources will be posted to https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/lwcf. Please read all posted documents to ensure your application is complete.

Applications for LWCF will be due via email Under both programs, recipients must be able no later than April 18 at 4 p.m. Applications must be emailed to recreationgrants@dcr.virginia.gov.

> Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program

> DCR will begin accepting pre-application proposals today for submission for ORLP. The 50-50% matching reimbursement program supports outdoor recreation projects in underserved urban areas. The minimum grant award

For ORLP, the park project must be located within an incorporated city or town with a LWCF is a 50-50% matching reimbursement population of at least 30,000 people. Based on

The Virginia Department of Conservation and habilitate park areas. Additional funds beyond in Virginia are the cities of Blacksburg, Charlottesville, Chesapeake, Danville, Hampton, The minimum grant award will be \$250,000 Harrisonburg, Lynchburg, Manassas, Newport News, Norfolk, Petersburg, Portsmouth, Richmond, Roanoke, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach; and Blacksburg and Leesburg towns.

> Within those cities and towns, the project must also serve disadvantaged communities lacking access to walkable outdoor recreation, in specific census tracts identified as disadvantaged by the federal Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool.

> Eligible projects can include acquisition, development, a combination of acquisition and development, or rehabilitation of parks and other outdoor recreation areas.

> DCR must submit projects selected through this call for proposals to NPS, which will be selecting the projects to move forward.

> Instructions on how to compete for funding, the pre-application and reference materials will be made available at https://www.dcr.virginia. gov/recreational-planning/lwcf#orlp.

> Pre-applications for ORLP are due to DCR via email to recreationgrants@dcr.virginia.gov no later than April 4 at 4 p.m.

> Questions about LWCF or ORLP can be emailed to Kristal.Mckelvey@dcr.virginia.gov.



Colonel Abram Penn Chapter Registrar Sheree Russo administers the Oath of Membership to Beth Wood Witt.



P&HCC Leads the Nation in Festo NC3 Certifications

Patrick & Henry Community fundamentals of sensor techters (NC3) Industry 4.0 certifi- - Allen-Bradley (36), fundacations, with 580 certifications mentals of mechanical systems earned by students during the (35), applied robotics (34), apcalendar year, contributing to plied PLCs – Siemens (31), apthe college's total of 2,750 cer- plied mechanical systems (25), ship.

provides students the oppor- nician – applied (1). tunity to demonstrate the exin-demand industry ing world-class equipment and 2023. We value P&HCC's comtential in a variety of indus- Lehr, Festo director of busitries.

"We're currently at 2,750 credentials and should achieve manufacturer of process con-3,000 by the end of the semes- trol and factory automation ter," said P&HCC instructor of solutions. To learn more, visit Industrial Electronics Technol- https://www.festo.com/us/en/. ogy Daniel Edwards.

College (P&HCC) led the na- nology (40), fundamentals of tion in 2023 in Festo National PLCs – Siemens (37), applied Coalition of Certification Cen-fluid power (37), applied PLCs tifications issued since the be- Industry 4.0 certified associate ginning of their NC3 partner- – fundamentals (9), applied principles of smart sensors (1), NC3 certification curriculum and Industry 4.0 certified tech-

"I want to congratulate P&Hpertise they acquire for today's CC on an outstanding year of skills. certifications. Their efforts are NC3 certification supplements clearly evident by leading the course curriculum with theo- entire nation in the issuing of ry and hands-on practice us- the Festo NC3 certifications in tools. These stackable creden- mitment to their students and tials increase employment po- our relationship," said Steve ness development.

About Festo: Festo is a global

About NC3: The National Co-P&HCC students earned 580 alition of Certification Centers credentials in fundamentals is a value-driven organization

Colonel Abram Penn Chapter NSDAR member Betty Banks was awarded a certificate in recognition of twenty-five years of membership and service to DAR. Chapter Regent, Ann McConnell, presented the certificate on behalf of the Chapter and NSDAR.

Black History topic of DAR program

ter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution DAR Ritual. Chapter member, Betmet February 12,2024 in the fellowship hall of Stuart Presbyterian twenty-five year membership in Church. Ann McConnell, Chapter Regent, presided with four members present.

In honor of Black History Month, "Black Heroes of the American Revolution" was the topic for the program presented by Regent Mc-Connell. Historians estimate that between 5,000 to 8,000 African-descended people participated in the Revolution on the Patriot side, and that upward of 20,000 served the crown. Monday's program focused the DAR. For more information on seven exceptional African Amer- contact nammcconnell@yahoo.com ican figures: among the seven are a or visit www.dar.org.

The Colonel Abram Penn Chap- martyr, a poet, and a double agent. A business meeting followed the ty Banks was recognized for her the DAR and the Colonel Abram Penn Chapter, where she has held many offices including Chapter Regent.

> The Oath of Membership was administered to Beth Wood Witt as the Chapter's newest member.

Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion or ethnic background, who can prove a lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution is eligible to join

of electricity – AC (60), funda- and the future model for Camentals of PLCs - Allen-Brad- reer and Technical Education, ley (49), fundamentals of flu- creating highly skilled, jobid power – hydraulics (49), ready professionals through a fundamentals of fluid power growing network of education-– pneumatics (47), fundamen- al partners and global industry tals of electricity - DC (46), leaders. To learn more, visit fundamentals of robotics (43), https://www.nc3.net.

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PHONE	AGE:	

The Enterprise, Wednesday, February 21, 2024 - 17

Astronomers invited to Spring Star Party

week-long astronomy festival tional and a NASA ambassador. gives stargazing enthusiasts of all before.

10, astronomers are invited to event promises to be a highlight bring their telescopes and camp on for anyone interested in astronthe park's Dark Sky Observation omy and the wonders of the uni-Field, which is renowned for its verse."

A Spring Star Party, sponsored dark sky and excellent stargazing by the Chapel Hill Astronomical conditions. On Friday and Saturand Observational Society (CHA- day afternoons, attendees can hear OS), will be held next month in from different speakers, including Staunton River State Park. This the president of DarkSky Interna-

"We're excited to welcome visiages the chance to experience the tors to Staunton River State Park night sky at an International Dark for our annual Spring Star Party," Sky Park like they've never done said Park Manager James Wright. "With our pristine dark skies and From March 4 through March knowledgeable astronomers, this

here gov/state-parks/event?id=2023-11- 11-07-18-17-47-896882-y7x). 07-18-16-08-920226-kon) or email com.

From 8 to 10 p.m., visitors will on Friday, Oct. 4.

Admission to the Spring Star have the opportunity to meet the Party is \$110 for the full week astronomers on the observation or \$60 for the weekend (Thurs- field and explore the cosmos themday-Sunday). These prices include selves. The Star Party is free to atcamping privileges on the field. tend for the public on Friday; how-Registration closes on Feb. 26. ever, standard parking fees apply. To learn more about the Spring To learn more about the public Star Party or to register, click night, click here (www.dcr.virgin-(https://www.dcr.virginia. ia.gov/state-parks/event?id=2023-

Astronomers unable to attend stauntonriverstarparty@gmail. the Spring Star Party can mark their calendars for the Fall Star The Spring Star Party is open Party. It's scheduled for Sept. 30 to the public on Friday, March 8. through Oct. 6, with a public night



Photo courtesy of Jonathan Piques



Star Party

Mandolin Fest set for Feb. 24

By Taylor Boyd

A Mandolin Festival will be take the stage. held by the Patrick County Music Association (PCMA) on Sat- Chaney's music students will Lynn Foddrell with the Piedurday, February 24.

The event will be held at the ner" at the start of the show. Rotary Building in Stuart. Doors open at 5 p.m., and the music the Goodfellers have had two or will start at 6 p.m.

said Ralph McGee and the Good- two years. fellers will headline the show.

Rex Smith, Ronald Inscore, multi-award Charlie Helms, Vince Bullins, Nick ed that McGee won the Galax more attendees were from out- CountyMusicAssociation.

Schmick, and others will also Fiddlers Convention numerous

Like in the January show, perform during "Charlie's Cor-

Alley said Ralph McGee and three number one songs on the PCMA President Denny Alley Bluegrass Charts over the last

"They're a really good group, es of rain," he said. winning musi-Chaney, David H. cians," Alley said, and add-

times.

The March show will have mont Blues as the headlining throughout the night. act.

Even though it was raining, well attended with about 100 people in attendance.

"You just can't beat eight inch- arm safety.

side Patrick County than county residents.

Admission is a \$5 donation at the door. Prizes will be awarded

Concessions will be available for purchase from the Patrick Alley said the January show was County Shooting Education Team, with proceeds going to teach children in the area fire-

For more information or to Based on information gath- watch past music performancered at the show, Alley said es, visit Facebook.com/Patrick-









Patti P. Snead, PT, DPT PELVIC HEALTH PHYSICAL THERAPIST

FORMAL EDUCATION : Old Dominion University, Doctor of Physical Therapy, 2007 • Chowan University Bachelor of Science Biology, 2003. CONTINUING EDUCATION/CERTIFICATIONS: Herman and Wallace, Pelvic Floor Level 1:

Introduction to Pelvic Floor Function, Dysfunction, and Treatment • American Physical Therapy Association Level 1: Pelvic Health Physical Therapy • Herman and Wallace, Pelvic Floor Level 2A: Function, Dysfunction and Treatment: Colorectal and Coccyx Conditions, Male Pelvic Floor, Pudendal Nerve Dysfunction • American Physical Therapy Association, Fundamental Topics of Pregnancy and Post-partum Physical Therapy • Herman and Wallace, Pelvic Floor Level 2B: Function, Dysfunction and Treatment: Urogynecologic Examination and Treatment Interventions • Herman and Wallace, Dry Needling and Pelvic Health • Herman and Wallace, Biofeedback for Pelvic Floor Dysfunction.



PELVIC HEALTH PHYSICAL THERAPY

The pelvic floor is a group of muscle, tendons, and ligaments in your pelvis which provide support for your pelvic organs, aide in bowel and bladder control, and contribute to sexual function. These structures coordinate with the bony structure of your hips and spine and the muscles of your back, abdomen, and diaphragm to provide your trunk with stability. Your pelvic floor must be able to contract and relax fully as well as respond to forces transmitted through your extremities. Injury to the pelvic floor may occur but is not always the cause of dysfunction.

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MONDAY - FRIDAY 08:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Primary students celebrate day of love



Students attending Patrick Springs Primary School were treated to a Valentine's Day celebration last week, complete with decorations, balloons and sweets. (Photos by Taylor Boyd)

Congressional staff to hold local hours

staff will hold local office hours on Feb. Street, Stuart. 28.

11:30 a.m. in City Hall, Council Cham- 525-1405 with any questions. bers, Second Floor

55 W. Church Street, Martinsville.

and hold office hours from 12:30 - 2 p.m. ting constituents at risk. If schools are in the Patrick County Administration closed, office hours are cancelled.

Congressman Griffith's Ninth District Building, Conference Room, 106 Rucker

Call the Christiansburg Office at (540) Staff will be in Martinsville from 10 - 381-5671, or the Abingdon Office at (276)

In the event of inclement weather (heavy snow, sleet, icy rain, etc.), traveling office They will then travel to Patrick County hours may be rescheduled to avoid put-

Hazard Named to Dean's List

Melissa Hazard, of Stuart, earned Dean's List honors during the fall 2023 semester at Hollins University. To attain this distinction, students must earn at least a 3.5 average on a 4.0 grading scale.





EMMYLOU HARRIS + CORY WONG **BROKE MOUNTAIN BLUEGRASS BAND** NORTH MISSISSIPPI ALLSTARS

BIG SOMETHING + DANIEL DONATO'S COSMIC COUNTRY_{X2} TAUK MOORE + JIM LAUDERDALE & THE GAME CHANGERS DOGS IN A PILE + COUCH + CAITLIN KRISKO & THE BROADCAST DOGS IN A PILE + THE SELDOM SCENE + THE MOUNTAIN GRASS UNIT COUCH + CAITLIN KRISKO & THE BROADCAST + YARN **ROOSTER WALK HOUSE BAND + ARKANSAUCE + SNEEZY** MYRON ELKINS + ISAAC HADDEN ORGAN TRIO + SOL DRIVEN TRAIN J & THE CAUSEWAYS + STICKS N THORNS + TRAVIS BOOK & FRIENDS THE COLLECTION + KAIRA BA + COLBY T. HELMS & THE VIRGINIA CREEPERS HOLLER CHOIR + CLAY STREET UNIT + THE JARED STOUT BAND + LILLIE MAE KIND HEARTED STRANGERS + MIGHTY JOSHUA + TC CARTER BAND LUA FLORA * BIG FAT GAP * FLORENCIA & THE FEELING * THE SHOALDIGGERS JULES & THE AGREEABLES + SELA CAMPBELL + DJ WHAT + SUGARBUSH MAGICIAN HUNTER RHODES * PIRATES OF THE PIEDMONT * RAFFI KIDS SET





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