



THE ENTERPRISE

Calendar	12
Church	9
Classified	10
Family Album	5
Obituaries	8
Sports	6
Viewpoints	4

Vol. 148 No. 9 Website: www.theenterprise.net STUART, VIRGINIA WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024 USPS 523-500 \$1.00

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

Commission approves solar plan in 3-2 vote



Dozens of residents attended a February 19 Community Meeting.



The Planning Commission approved that Moscato LLC's proposed plan was substantially in accord with the county's comprehensive plan in a 3-2 vote.

By Taylor Boyd
 In a majority vote, the Patrick County Planning Commission found that Moscato LLC's proposed plan for a solar farm was substantially in accord with the county's comprehensive plan. The vote was 3-2 vote at the February 20 meeting. The proposal will be considered by the Patrick County Board of Su-

pervisors at a later time. Larry Cowley, Kurt Bozenmayer, and Cynthia Cowley voted for the motion. Sarah Wray and Jane Fulk cast dissenting votes. Larry Cowley said he voted for the motion as Moscato LLC's plan is substantially in accordance with the comprehensive plan.

Cynthia Cowley said all the Planning Commission was to consider was whether the proposed plan was substantially in accordance with the county's comprehensive plan. "And I feel that they are," she said, and voted in favor of the proposal. Wray said she voted against the motion because she questions

whether the project is in line with the county's plan. "After having this public hearing and having immense outpouring of information and lack of support from the community, I think it's worth further exploration to make sure that if we're given a document, their proposal should match our or-

(See Commission p.3)

Bid underway to remove supervisor

By Taylor Boyd and Debbie Hall

Malcolm Roach is spearheading a drive to remove Doug Perry, vice-chairman of the Patrick County Board of Supervisors, from office. Roach, who also is the chairman of the county's Electoral Board, said his appointment "has nothing to do with the problems I'm having with the board of supervisors and the solar farms.



Doug Perry, vice chairman of the Patrick County Board of Supervisors, on Friday addressed those gathered at a community meeting for Smith River District residents.

"In no way, shape, or form should they be connected, they're not," Roach said, adding that he does not see his Electoral Board position and his petition as a conflict of interest, and he is not acting in his capacity on the board or on its behalf.

"I volunteer at the Election Board. I don't draw a salary like they offer, I don't turn in a log for my mileage or anything like that. The county is in bad shape, and it needs all the money it can get, so I volunteer," he said.

Roach started the petition about a week ago, and brought it with him to a community meeting hosted by Perry Friday. As of February 26, Roach estimated he has collected more than 100 signatures.

The petition came after a solar farm was proposed for a property situated in the Smith River District.

which Perry represents. Roach currently owns property in that district, but has listed it for sale.

"If the board of supervisors would talk to people instead of trying to shove things down their throat, it may not even have gone this far," he said.

Perry has hosted two community meetings with Walter Scott, who represents the same district on the Patrick County School Board. The

(See Bid Underway p. 13)



Singh Brothers Investments, LLC, (right) expressed their interest in purchasing the property at the February 21 Stuart Town Council meeting.

Council approves listing property for sale

By Taylor Boyd

The Stuart Town Council approved going forward with the sale of 5.794 acres of town property at \$10,000 per acre at its Wednesday, February 21 meeting.

The property is located between Stuart Forest Products and EMI Imaging on Commerce Street. The Mayo River Rail Trail goes through the property.

Town Manager Bryce Simmons said the council had discussed disposing of the property at the last council meeting.

"I don't think that we have a good plan for it at this point. I think that we have talked about \$10,000 an acre for that property as part of what we would entertain offers to sell," he said.

Mayor Ray Weiland said it's a nice riverfront piece of property

that was originally intended for the Stuart Volunteer Fire Department.

"We were going to build a new building there, but when we had the opportunity to put our fire department where it is now, of course we jumped at that opportunity," he said.

Weiland said the best thing for the town to do is sell the property and get it back on the tax books.

"Hopefully a good business will come in there and utilize it to its fullest," he said.

Deleep Paul, of Singh Brothers Investments, LLC, said he and his brother, Harjot Paul, would be interested in the property. The two have multiple successful businesses in the area.

"We actually run Friendly's and we own some of Main Street. We've

(See Council p.3)

Saturday benefit for teens attracts crowd



The Woolwine Elementary School gym was full of people supporting the Lauren Worley and Micah Underwood families.

By Pat Delaney

Hundreds of people visited the Woolwine Elementary School on Saturday for a benefit to support Lauren Worley and Micah Underwood, who suffered severe injuries in a car crash in December.

Attendees enjoyed music, food and fellowship and took part in raffles and a bake sale. All funds raised at the event will help support the Worley and Underwood families. Among those performing was the Patrick County High School Praise and Worship Team, made up of classmates of

Lauren Worley. They opened their performance with a prayer of thanks for Lauren's recovery.

In a video posted to his social media, Lauren Worley's father, Chris, addressed those in attendance. "We know how blessed we are. She's here, and she shouldn't be. She's got a long way to go, but she's come a long way.

"For everybody to come here and support her like this, it's unbelievable," said Worley. "We're just extremely grateful and blessed to live in a community like this."

(See Saturday Benefit p.15)

Dual primaries set for March 5

Voters who plan to cast a ballot in the Democratic or Republican primaries will head to the polls to participate on Tuesday, March 5. All polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Since this will be a dual primary, officers of election must determine in which primary election the voter wishes to vote in. The voter will be asked if they wish to vote in the Democratic Party Primary or the Republican Party Primary. All persons who are qualified to vote may vote in either primary, but they cannot vote in both. The choice to vote in a party's primary does not mean that the voter will be

"registered" with that party. Virginia does not register by party. A sample ballot is printed in this newspaper showing the names of the candidates.

Voters are also reminded to bring an acceptable form of identification with them on Election Day, as Virginia law requires that all voters present an acceptable form of identification when voting. Any voter who does not have an acceptable ID may sign an ID confirmation statement.

A registered voter needing to vote early may do so in person in the Registrar's Office, located at the Patrick County Veterans' Memorial Building, 106 Rucker St, Rm 216C, Stuart, **(See Primary Elections p. 14)**



Tourism Talks

Hello Patrick, It has been a minute since we last talked, and another month has flown by. I have noticed a lot of budding on the trees, and the daffodils are showing their strength. With the change in the weather, spring fever is starting to spread. That said, I want to highlight one of the County's biggest and most visited areas, the Blue Ridge Parkway.

The Parkway is one of the most visited units of the National Park System, hosting 16.7 million visitors along its ridges in 2023. The 469-mile ribbon of road travels through 12 counties in Virginia and 17 counties in North Carolina, connecting rural mountain communities, towns, and cities. The Parkway generates approximately \$1.3 billion positive annual economic impact on the adjacent communities. The Parkway is a catalyst for promoting regional tourism and is a significant contributor to regional economic vitality.

We saw a drop in traffic at the entrance of US 58 during December, going from 11,470 visits in 2022 to only 5,046 in 2023. That is a decrease of about 56%. Much of this can be attributed to the construction. But while US 58 and the entire Plateau District saw a decline

in December travel, cumulative travel for the whole year has increased considerably for the region. US 58 saw 27.4% more visitors by the end of the calendar year 2023, reaching 161,639 visits. As you can see, the Parkway is vital to us, and we will continue promoting our gateway communities, seeking to get travelers to stop before or to get them to come off the Parkway into those areas.

So, as the weather changes and Spring jumps on board, we are poised for another great season. Meadows of Dan is gearing up; Poor Farmers Market has a big anniversary coming up. Flecia will be celebrating 40 years of service to the community. The Merchants are working on signage, and we are assisting with the marketing so that the entire 58 corridor can benefit from those visitors.

Well, that is enough for now. I will be back soon with some more highlights about our beautiful community. Stay strong, continue showing love for the community, and be blessed. As always, tell everyone to "Come get lost and find yourself here!" All my best,

James Houchins
jhouchins@co.patrick.va.us
Director of Tourism

General Assembly passes bipartisan Prescription Drug Affordability Board legislation

A bill to help rein in the cost of prescription drugs for Virginians is headed to Governor Glenn Youngkin's desk after passing the House and Senate with bipartisan support.

Senate Bill 274, which would establish a Prescription Drug Affordability Board, passed 50-47 on the House floor this afternoon with support from both parties. The bill's chief patron is Sen. Creigh Deeds (D-Charlottesville) and has a number of co-patrons, including Republican Sen. Bill Stanley (R-Galax). The House version is sponsored by Delegate Karrie Delaney (D-Centreville).

"The General Assembly took a huge bipartisan step forward to lower the cost of medicine for millions of Virginians," Deeds said. "Thank you to Senator Stanley and Delegate Delaney for leading on

this legislation. Virginians strongly support a Prescription Drug Affordability Board, across party lines. Now, it's time for Governor Youngkin to take action on this bipartisan legislation to make medicine more affordable for Virginians."

A Prescription Drug Affordability Board would have the authority to set upper payment limits on certain high-cost prescription medications and is supported by a strong majority of Virginians of all political leanings.

"Governor Youngkin has expressed his desire to address the cost of living. For Virginians struggling to pay for the medicine they need, this is about the cost of staying alive," said AARP Virginia State Director Jim Dau. "We are very pleased that the General Assembly has responded to the

clear message from Virginians and passed this legislation with bipartisan support, and we hope the governor will do the right thing and sign it into law."

The price of prescription drugs are increasing well above the rate of inflation. Americans pay more for their medicine than any country on earth, and Virginians pay 36% more than the national average.

In 2023, AARP Virginia polled voters of all ages and found that:

35% of Virginians chose not to fill a prescription in 2023.

three out of four (75%) Virginia voters support creating a Prescription Drug Affordability Board.

two-thirds (67%) of voters take prescription drugs, and half of them spend more than \$600 annually on their medication.

63% of voters are concerned about the cost of medication.

across party lines, voters strongly support the creation of a Prescription Drug Affordability Board (Democrats - 85%, Republicans - 71%, Independents - 70%).

A Prescription Drug Affordability Board would:

be an independent state board with the authority to set an upper payment limit on a few of the highest-cost medications for Virginians.

save taxpayers money by reducing state and local government spending on prescription drugs.

help ensure affordable access to life-saving medicine for illnesses like cancer and diabetes.

mitigate out-of-control prices set by the big drug companies.

Bell named President of Virginia Rural Health Association

By Jeff Reid

Nancy Bell has been named President of the Virginia Rural Health Association, a nonprofit devoted to improving the health of rural Virginians through education, advocacy, and fostering cooperative partnerships. It's a membership organization consisting of adult professionals and students on a health career path. The current focus of the VRHA is on workforce development, equity, and advocacy.

Bell, who is Population Health Manager for the West Piedmont Health District (WPHD), said she will be working closely with executive director Beth O'Connell, her staff, and the Board of Directors from many fields associated with rural health including hospitals, social services, public health professionals, university personnel, and other people who are committed to improving rural health outcomes. She will also chair monthly board meetings, review financials, evaluate staff, and look for funding opportunities.

From life expectancy to maternal mortality, Americans living in rural regions face some of the greatest health care challenges in the country. Bell said that dwindling resources are a major concern in the WPHD which covers Franklin, Henry, and Patrick counties.

"In the West Piedmont Health District there are only two hospitals, and they don't deliver babies," she said. "Maternal health and infant mortality resources are one of the challenges we are working on by seeking funds for doulas and other resources."

Bell said rural communities face other challenges like having ample emergency services, transportation in general, and opioid addiction is prominent.

"Hospitals are leaving rural communities across Virginia, unable to be profitable," she said. "Physicians and other practitioners generally do not choose a rural area to start their careers, so we have fewer physicians per resident than other areas of the state."

Bell, who began her term in January, said that maternal health will be a pet project, and she hopes to have some kind of pilot project underway soon. She is working with the VHRA to address the fact that no delivery hospital exists in the entire health district. She said doulas are being trained and deployed to assist expectant mothers in finding prenatal and postnatal care.

She is also concerned about the aging population, and chronic health issues like diabetes and heart disease, and said more resources are needed to assist people with these conditions. Bell said the



Nancy Bell is now President of the Virginia Rural Health Association.

entire district also suffers from a lack of public transportation, and that is another concern with many older residents not being able to drive. She said that she is working with the VHRA on workforce development to address these matters as well.

Bell added that another goal is to help people in rural areas to understand that addiction is not as a failure of character but a mental health disorder.

Rural health has been the focus of Bell's work since she joined the Virginia Department of Health in 2016. She has been responsible for leading community health assessments and improvement planning aimed at the needs of rural citizens and for implementing grant-funded programs to address those needs.

Bell remains optimistic about the future of rural healthcare and said Covid is responsible for a lot of positive changes.

"Rallying municipal, hospital and other partners created strong working relationships that we now rely upon for day-to-day activities, as do they," she said. "We created new ways of doing things that I feel are more cost and time efficient, like online meetings and some procedures, and new tools were developed, like dashboards, making healthcare data easy for the public to access. Funding from the federal government and passed down through the Virginia Department of Health, enabled us to hire community health workers, and I believe these positions will be instrumental in the future."

Bell believes that the successful health departments are the ones that are turning themselves inside out, taking more programs and services to people where they are.

"The community health assessments and improvement plans that we lead, inform advancements identified by the people who live there so that programs and services are what they need and not what we think they need."

Bell is a graduate of Radford University (BA, 1982) and Duke University's Nonprofit Management program (2010).

Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

*Dakota Storm Lewis, 19, of Martinsville, was charged Feb. 16 with one count each unlawful dissemination of image and threaten illegal/immoral act over telephone. Inv. T. Jessup was the arresting officer.

*Andrew Tyler Clifton, 28, of Stuart, was charged Feb. 16 with shoplift. Senior Deputy E. Sain was the arresting officer.

*Luther Lee Barnes, 51, of Stuart, was charged Feb. 19 with grand larceny. Senior Deputy A. Kinney was the arresting officer.

*Heather Nicole Lockhart, 30, of Patrick Springs, was charged Feb. 20 with one count each probation violation and false identity to law enforcement officer. Senior Deputy A. Kinney was the arresting officer.

*Austin Kenneth Bowman, 27, of Stuart, was charged Feb. 20 with one count each drive

motor vehicle- license revoked suspended, reckless driving, and disregard law enforcement command. Senior Deputy A. Kinney was the arresting officer.

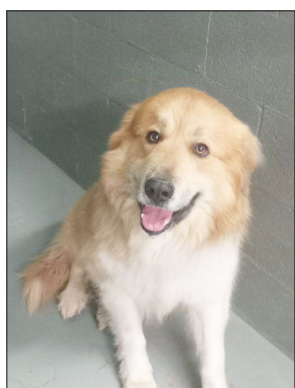
*Samantha Sue Moorefield, 37, of Patrick County Jail, was charged Feb. 20 with probation violation. Deputy L. White made the arrest for Henry County.

*Mason Wyatt Wasoski, 22, of Stuart, was charged Feb. 20 with one count each schedule I/II drug: possession w/intent to manufacture/sell/distribute and possess firearm with schedule I/II drug. Inv. T. Jessup was the arresting officer.

*Austin K. Bowman, 27, of Stuart, was charged Feb. 20 with disregard law enforcement command. Senior Deputy A. Kinney made the arrest for Henry County.

*Steven Gary Rogers, 45, of Stuart, was charged Feb. 22 with arson. Inv. T. Jessup was the arresting officer.

Pets of the Week



This cutie with the wiry coat was found on Mill Creek Road in Critz. He is medium sized and is waiting for someone to take him home.

This handsome guy looks like he may have some Pyrenees in his back ground with his soft coat and he is too clean to just be a stray. He was found on Dan River Road in Meadows of Dan.

If you recognize either of these pups, please call the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter (PCPAS) at (276) 694-6259. These pooches are too nice to just be wandering the streets.

To view available pets, visit the shelter's Facebook page. Adoption fees are \$10 and include spay/neuter and a rabies vaccination.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Commission

(cont. from page 1)

dinance,” she said.

“I want to make sure that if we’re moving forward with the project of this scale with so much opposition that we feel very confident that we know that we’re doing so in accordance with the ordinances that we’ve set forth,” she said.

At the start of the meeting, Bozenmayer asked if there were specific concerns about the proposal’s compliance.

“And Sarah (Wray) mentioned a few of them beyond what my concerns were. I felt that for the most part when you look at all the paperwork that’s involved, their application is substantially in accordance,” he said.

But, Bozenmayer said there are some concerns that should be tried to work out before it goes for the final vote.

“Don’t take it to the supervisors as it is,” as substantially in accord, “but they should try to finalize these details to everyone’s satisfaction before it goes to the board of supervisors for their vote,” he said.

Fulk said she agreed with Wray about some of the things that need to be done.

“I’m not much on solar farms to start with. I know it’s part of our Green Energy, but” I felt it needed further investigation, she said.

Before the motion was made, Energix attorney Jasdeep Khaira, Esq. said the commission’s motion needed to include the phrase “substantially in accord.”

Khaira added the issues noted and addressing them will be done down the line.

Solar Meeting

At a meeting held by Energix on Monday, February 19, Dominika Sink, the company’s senior director of Project Development, said the global energy company has operations in the United States, Israel, and Poland.

“So far, we’ve invested about \$1 billion in America’s energy infrastructure. We’re really proud of the work we do in the U.S., investing in U.S. energy grids,” she said.

Sink said Energix has developed, built, and operates over 600 megawatts throughout 15 different projects, predominately in Virginia.

Project Development Analyst Gracyn Draney said the Moscato project is just outside of the Woolwine community, with Woolwine Highway to the south and Pilson Sawmill Road to the east.

“The project is 13.2 megawatts. The equivalent of that in terms of powering homes is going to be 2,049 homes. We have a singular landowner for the project, and” that land is “currently not being used,” she said.

Sink said Energix anticipates using 120 acres of the land parcel, including land for the equipment, storm water controls, roads, setbacks, and other requirements. Metal beams will be placed into the ground with a wrapping system, with solar panels perched on top.

The beams “are spaced about 8 to 14 feet. Between those rows of solar panels, we have vegetation. That’s a requirement by the DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality), so essentially, it’s going to be a meadow with the solar panels on top of it,” she said.

At the planning commission meeting, Draney said the construction period will be about six months. Aside from the construction process, the project will not be loud or have long-term traffic or pollution. It will also be hidden behind a tree line, with a minimum setback of 50 feet.

“However, for our residential folks, the closest neighbor we have is 590 feet away. Our other neighbors have well over a 700-foot setback,” she said. “As we stated in the community meeting, for those neighbors who are concerned, we’re more than happy to work with you and with seeing if we can get more supplemental vegetation or what else we can do.”

In terms of revenue for the county, Draney said approximately \$256,000 will be received in revenue in the first year.

Under the current land use for that project, “we would see a 62 percent increase for that tax revenue in year one,” she said.

For the 42-year lifetime of the project, the

county would receive \$2.4 million in revenue. Energix does not plan to change the panels out during the tenure of the project unless one is not performing correctly.

Draney said the plan will not impact surface water or groundwater resources, and will be outside of flood zones.

“In terms of economic benefits to the county, not only will the county have tax revenue, but also we like to work with local contractors. That is just another means of us providing” economic benefits for the county, she said.

Solar preserves the land for future uses, she said. At the end of the project’s lifetime, decommissioning the project means removing all above ground equipment.

To ensure that is done properly, Draney said no matter what happens, the company will issue a surety bond to the county.

“This is just one way to say, ‘no matter what happens, decommissioning will still occur.’ We have a third-party engineering company that helps with the decommissioning plan, so this is updated every five years to account for different factors, such as inflation or industry factors to make sure that number is constantly updating every five years,” she said.

The project will not introduce hazardous materials into the atmosphere, soil, or water, Draney said.

“We work with all of those state agencies to ensure that does not happen throughout the duration of the project,” she said, adding that Energix works closely with DEQ and invites it to all sites voluntarily.

“This is just one of our measures to make sure we are constantly in compliance with DEQ standards that are set forth. We go above and beyond,” she said.

Wray questioned the proposed project.

“I’m curious on the setbacks. You mentioned 50-foot, but our ordinance is set up as 75-foot for public right of ways as well as buildings and adjoining parcels,” she said.

Draney said this was one of the setback done with Fairystone Solar, LLC, another solar project in the county. She added that Energix is willing to take another look and work through the issue.

Doug Perry, vice-chairman of the Board of Supervisors and liaison to the commission, asked about the monitoring system for the panels.

“We have software that every module is connected to, so if there is anything that happens to the panel in terms of performance or damage, it’s immediately reported so that it can be fixed,” Draney said, adding the monitoring will be done remotely.

Several residents also spoke at the meeting, and asked questions of Project Development Analyst Danielle Corsan.

Mary Beth Clement, Debbie Foley, and Grant Foley spoke about the impact the project would have on the area’s view shed and potential impacts to tourism.

Clement said she wants to know if the comprehensive plan addresses the other economic impacts the project may have.

“The fact that this is going to be visible from Fred Clifton Park overlook and scenic overlooks from the parkway, it’s going to damage tourism in this county, which is the biggest economic driver that we have,” she said.

Clement asked whether the revenue the county receives from the project would replace the tourism dollars that will be lost, “because nobody is going to come here to go up on that mountain and stand at an overlook and see the solar panels. You can see that property right now from the overlook,” she said.

Foley said she knows the view shed is part of the comprehensive plan, and added that the reason tourists visit is because of the pristine and untouched land.

“This simple life, isn’t that our motto? If we wanted to have these types of things, let them go somewhere else where the grade is flat. My view shed ... when you look at that, and we talked about this last night, if you look at my property it’s 700 feet, my mother-in-law’s is another 700 feet, and uncle’s is another 700 feet,” she said.

Foley said one important thing for people to remember is the area is in the hollow.

“My mother-in-law, 700 feet above us. Our uncle, 700 feet above her. When you’re coming

down (Virginia) 8, as you’re going by this property, if you look across from where this project is going to be, you can see his house. He looks down on all of that,” she said.

Grant Foley said several of his neighbors also attended the meeting.

“We’re all on a hill, every one of us has hilltop property that’s going to be looking down on this. So, how high’s your vegetation going to grow to block the view of this,” he said.

He also questioned the company’s plan to keep the water from running off the hillside that goes directly into the creek.

“It’s already washing me away. I’ve lost three feet of creek bank since the gentleman clearcut his property. What’s it going to do when the whole hillside is cleared off,” he asked.

In terms of vegetation height, Corsan said evergreen trees that grow between one to three feet a year will be planted.

“If view shed is a concern, we can actually put the trees in before the site goes under construction so that it has a little bit of a jump start. I want to emphasize the site itself does have a really lush vegetative buffer already, however we are willing to supplement in areas that may be more sparse,” she said.

Erosion and sediment controls used are in compliance with those mandated by the DEQ, Corsan said.

“We actually go above and beyond what DEQ requires. Generally, the solar sites that we create actually have less runoff than they did before because there are measures in place. We absolutely do not want to have any runoff on any sites that might affect neighbors, it is against our interest to have that,” she said.

Grant Foley asked the commission if the meeting was a proposed contract negotiation or if the contract was already signed.

Larry Cowley, chairman of the commission, said the commission was doing all it is allowed to do, which was to determine whether the proposed plan was substantially in accordance with the comprehensive plan.

“We have no authority other than that,” Cowley said.

“Well, I call bull crap on that because I’ve read the county ordinance, and it says the Planning Commission shall recommend or not recommend a proposal. So, y’all ought to be taking into account everything that the people here are saying, and you’re not. It’s falling on deaf ears. You’re rubber stamping,” Grant Foley said.

LeeAnn Seeley read a letter from Crystal Wood, who lives near the proposed solar farm location.

“I do not agree with this effort and cannot ever imagine this project being a part of my community and can in no way ever see it as a positive addition.

Wood said she sees no benefit for this environmentally using the toxic chemicals.

“This very rural community has no place for something like this. We must keep this beautiful area untouched,” she said.

Seeley said she had asked about the risk of 38,372 degrading and potentially cadmium leaching solar panels in the proposed 42-year site to the local fishing communities.

“The answer that I got from Ms. Sink was no possibility of leeching,” she said. “So, for those that don’t know, cadmium telluride is what is used in these panels are toxic which is considered hazardous by the OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) Communication Standard EPA National Institute of Health,” she said.

Corsan emphasized that cadmium and cadmium telluride are not the same thing, and are molecularly different.

“Cadmium is combined with telluride to create the compound, and this compound is stable. Cadmium will not leech into the soil or groundwater. The panels that contact the technology, these panels encapsulate and bind the technology so that it cannot escape. It is also not toxic,” she said.

Corsan used table salt as a comparison because it is also two different materials that are combined together to create something that is safe and stable.

“Again, there is no way that these panels naturally could ever leech. The only way to get them to, I guess, would be in a lab setting, and they use something called sulfuric acid, which is also known as piranha because it will take your hand off if you put your hand in a bucket of it,” she said.

(See Commission p. 11)

Firewater SERVICE CENTER

1329 Scenic Drive, Stuart, VA 24171
(276) 694-7417 or (276) 358-1580

Hours: Mon - Fri 8:00 to 5:30, Sat 8:00 to 2:00

VALVOLINE AND SCHAEFFER OIL PRODUCTS

Now Offering

TIRES & FRONT END ALIGNMENT



- State Inspections
- Oil Changes using Amsoil, Valvoline & Schaeffer Oil Products
- Full Brake Service for Disc and Drum Brakes
- Replacement of Belts and Hoses
- Tune Ups
- Tire Rotations
- Starter and Alternator Replacement
- Battery Replacement

10% DISCOUNT FOR VETERANS

GENERAC

Prepare for power outages today

WITH A HOME STANDBY GENERATOR

\$0 MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

Contact a Generac dealer for full terms and conditions

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE

CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE

(844) 947-1479

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty* - A \$695 Value!

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.



DON'T FALL BEHIND ON YOUR READING

JOIN OUR FREE DIGITAL NEWSLETTER INSTEAD



GO TO theenterprise.net

CLICK NOW TO JOIN STAY UP TO DATE ON LOCAL NEWS

St. David's Day

Soon it will be March and for many people, that means looking forward to celebrating St. Patrick's Day on March 17th, the holiday honoring the patron saint of Ireland. However, a lesser-known holiday, St. David's Day, celebrating the patron saint of Wales, is celebrated on March 1st.

St. David was born circa 500 AD in Ceredigion, Wales, into an aristocratic Welsh family. He became a well-known teacher and preacher, founding churches and monastic settlements across Wales and parts of modern-day England and France. He died on March 1st (the date for which the holiday is celebrated) in 589 AD and was canonized as a Saint in the 12th century by Pope Callixtus II.

Today, to symbolize the holiday, many people of Welsh descent will wear one or both of the national symbols of Wales: the daffodil and the leek. The flag of St. David (a yellow cross on a black background) is also flown on the holiday.

As some may know, the Welsh have had a long and storied history in our country.

Since the early 1600s, Welsh people have emigrated to different parts of the United States searching for a new life. Amongst those were a large group of Welsh Quakers who emigrated to America with William Penn (namesake of the state of Pennsylvania) in the late 1600s. Other Welsh immigrants included the Morgans, whose descendant Daniel Morgan was the Revolutionary War hero who won the Battle of Cowpens.

Later, another large-scale Welsh immigration occurred in the mid- to late-1800s.

Since then, thousands of farmers, slate workers, iron workers, coal miners, lead miners, silver miners, gold miners, tinplate workers and steelworkers from Wales have settled all across the United States and made valuable contributions to American life.

In fact, eleven of our presidents have been of Welsh descent: John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, John Quincy Adams, William Harrison, Abraham Lincoln, James Garfield, Benjamin Harrison, Calvin Coolidge, and Richard Nixon.

States with mining heritage, such as Virginia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio, have a proud Welsh American tradition. States with a particularly high proportion of Welsh Americans today include Utah, Idaho, Vermont, Oregon, and Wyoming.

The 9th District is no excep-



Morgan Griffith

Representative

tion; Welsh influence can be seen across Southwest Virginia.

Welsh settlers felt drawn to Southwest Virginia due to the similarity in landscape (Appalachian Mountains as compared to the Cambrian Mountains in Wales). Welsh settlers also had a long history of raising sheep and coal mining, two things that could be done in Southwest Virginia.

Perhaps the most visible sign of the Welsh's imprint on Southwest Virginia are the communities with Welsh names, such as Jonesville in Lee County and Pembroke in Giles County.

If you know of others, feel free to inform us!

Also, common Welsh surnames include Davis, Evans, Griffin, Griffith, Jenkins, Jones, Lloyd, Morgan, Powell, Thomas, and Williams. According to the Welsh government, today more than 10 million people in the United States have a Welsh surname. As you can probably tell, based on the common Welsh surnames, I am of Welsh heritage and am proud of my Celtic ancestry. I hope all of my fellow Americans take pride in their family lineage, whatever that might be.

Since being elected to Congress, I started the Friends of Wales Caucus as a way for lawmakers of Welsh backgrounds to honor their heritage and for Members of Congress to build direct relations with government and business figures in Wales, especially in light of the hundreds of American-owned companies that are based in Wales.

Our two countries share a long history of strong economic links. The U.S. is Wales largest export destination, with nearly £3.4 billion in goods sent to the U.S. in 2022. Additionally, Welsh semiconductor fabricators have developed close ties to the U.S. tech industry.

I've had the privilege of meeting with members of the Welsh Parliament here in Washington and in Wales.

So, I hope this March 1st you all will join me in celebrating St. David's Day and recognize the positive impact Wales has had on our country.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, can call my Abingdon office at (276) 525-1405, my Christiansburg office at (540) 381-5671, or via email at <https://morgangriffith.house.gov/>.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Concerns with SB517

Senate Bill (SB)517 in the current General Assembly, sponsored by Sen. Angela Graves, seeks to eliminate the tax-exempt status of several non-profit historical organizations focused on remembering Virginia's Confederate history, including the Stonewall Jackson Memorial, Inc., the Confederate Memorial Literary Society, the Virginia Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV), and the JEB Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust, which is located right here in Patrick County. SB517 will likely pass both houses and go to Gov. Youngkin.

A bill similar to SB517, proposed in 2022 by Del. Don Scott, was not supported by the Republican majority at that time and thus did not pass in that session, but one can surmise that the previous and current bills aim to silence these organizations due to their Confederate focus, based on Del. Scott's comment reported by the Virginian-Pilot on August 19, 2022, that he was sure Gov. Youngkin would have vetoed his bill because the Governor wanted to "perpetuate the mythology of the Confederacy." I disagree vehemently that these organizations exist to perpetuate Confederate "mythology," but nonetheless, it is not the General Assembly's place to use the power of government to attempt to silence any organization simply because the majority party disapproves of their views regarding history.

I am a member of both the SCV and the JEB Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust Board, and I've known many members of the UDC. None of these organizations, nor the members I know, are "racist." Efforts to financially break these non-profits based on their Confederate focus smack of

ignorance regarding both their organizational missions and the period of history they remember. The UDC emerged from the Ladies Memorial Associations in the tragic years following America's Civil War as a means for the families of Virginia and other Southern States to remember their war dead and the sacrifices of those who took part in what remains to this day America's most destructive war. The SCV is comprised of male descendants of Confederate veterans, who seek to remember and honor the courage and sacrifice of their ancestors in America's deadliest war. Many SCV members are proud US military veterans and outstanding citizens. The JEB Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust exists for the sole purpose of preserving for historical remembrance the birthplace of one of Virginia's most well-known historical figures from the Civil War, Maj. General James Ewell Brown Stuart, born right here in Patrick County; a re-enactment and living history are held annually on the Birthplace grounds. These non-profit organizations and the others targeted by SB517 have every right—morally and constitutionally—to preserve the history of this era without being crippled financially by a vindictive government using taxation as a weapon.

I believe SB517 would set a terrible and chilling precedent for whichever party is in power to silence non-profit organizations for political and ideological reasons. I believe it is unconstitutional, blatantly political, and totally unworthy of Virginia's rich and diverse place in American history. I for one am urging Governor Youngkin to veto SB517.

David Robinette Jr.,
Patrick Springs

Commending Perry's efforts

I would like to commend Doug Perry, Patrick County Supervisor for the Smith River District, for his continuing efforts to keep the citizenry informed on the topics facing our county today. Mr. Perry has recently hosted two "town hall" type meetings, at the Woolwine and Fairystone firehouses, presenting the latest information regarding the excellent performance of our school system (assisted in this presentation by School Board Vice Chairman Walter Scott), the status of the broadband and hospital issues, and the present state of the Energix Renewables application to build a solar generating facility in Woolwine.

Mr. Perry also attended the Energix presentation at the P&HCC community room on 19 February and was present in his role as Board of Supervisors liaison to the Planning Commission at the public hearing on 20 February, also concerning the Woolwine facility and also held at the college.

The solar issue drew the most heated response from each of the crowds attending those meetings, and Mr. Perry was asked several times to declare how he would vote on the solar issue. Each time, Mr. Perry declined to answer the question on how he would vote, and attempted to present additional information, and each

time he was rudely interrupted by shouted questions on topics already discussed.

I believe that Mr. Perry was correct in declining to answer the vote question, since the public hearing on the Woolwine facility is still some weeks (or months) in the future. Asking Mr. Perry to declare how he would vote, at this time, is essentially asking him to "pre-judge" the merits of the issue, and while I am not a legal expert, I believe that the legal term for making such a decision is PREJUDICE.

The role of a county supervisor is to represent the interests of the citizens of his/her district in IMPARTIAL determinations of the best course of action for the entire county. There is no room for PREJUDICE in such decisions, either for or against the issue, and it is unfair for a handful of vocal opponents to try to bully a Supervisor into a premature declaration of intent when the entire merits and faults of the issue have not yet been resolved. Please allow the supervisors to do their jobs. It is the responsibility of ALL citizens to let their supervisors know how they feel on any particular issue, either through phone calls, letters, e-mails, or personal attendance at the public hearings.

Kurt Bozenmayer,
Buffalo Ridge

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.

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

Get your print or digital subscription today by calling (276) 694-3101 or visiting henrycountyenterprise.com

CHECK US OUT

Patrick Pioneers

Eliphaz Shelton descendants of Stuart

By Beverly Belcher Woody

Last week, we followed Eliphaz Shelton's son Claiborne and his descendants all the way to the Pacific Ocean. This week, we will look at Eliphaz's children that remained in Patrick County.

Eliphaz and Nancy Asher's second child, Philapenia was born in 1776; she married Robert Sharp of Patrick County on the 17th of August 1796. Philapenia and Robert had two daughters, Lucinda "Lucy," born in 1799 and Frances "Frankie," born in 1812. Robert Sharp served with the Virginia Militia in the War of 1812 and died on the 16th of June 1814 in Norfolk, Virginia. According to the National Archives record #11450, Philapenia received a war widow pension for Robert's service in the war. Philapenia passed away on the first of February 1857 and was buried in the Eliphaz Shelton cemetery.

Philapenia and Robert's daughters both married men from the Wayside community of Stuart. Lucy married Samuel Lafayette Gilbert on the 5th of March 1823, and they raised at least eight children near Wayside Community church. Lucy and Samuel are buried at the cemetery at Wayside Church. Frankie married Armistead "Street" Newman on the 10th of January 1837, and they also had eight children. Frankie and Street are buried at the Mitchell, Beasley, Rodgers Cemetery in the Peters Creek community.

The third child of Eliphaz and Nancy Shelton was Archibald, born in 1777. Archibald married Miss Rhoda Nowlin on the 28th of November 1797. Rhoda was the daughter of James Edmund Nowlin and Ursula Patterson Nowlin of Stuart. Archibald served in the 6th Virginia Regiment during the War of 1812 and was able to return to Patrick County, but he died in 1816, leaving Rhoda with at least five young children to raise on her own. Rhoda died on the 28th of July 1854, and she was buried with Archibald at the Eliphaz Shelton Cemetery.

Eliphaz and Nancy's fourth child, Hannah was born in 1778. I was unable to find any mar-

riage records for Hannah; in the 1850 and 1860 census records, she was living in the town of Stuart with her niece, Nancy Newman Fitzgerald and her husband, James, who was the town blacksmith. Hannah died at the age of 82 and was buried in the Eliphaz Shelton cemetery.

The fifth child of Eliphaz and Nancy, Olive Amanda Shelton was born in 1780. Olive married Samuel Nowlin on the 19th of January 1809 in Patrick County. Samuel was also the son of James Edmund Nowlin and Ursula Patterson Nowlin. I'm starting to see a lot of double first cousins here! Olive and Samuel moved west and settled in the township of Little York in Washington County, Indiana.

Eliphaz and Nancy's sixth child, Sarah "Sallie" was born in 1781. Sallie married Rhoda and Samuel Nowlin's brother, Francis Nowlin, on the 19th of February 1801. Sallie and Francis had at least five children before Sallie passed away in 1818. Sallie was also buried in the Eliphaz Shelton cemetery.

The seventh child of Eliphaz and Nancy, Frederick, was born in 1784. Frederick married Miss Winifred Jones in Patrick County on the 6th of February 1809. Frederick also fought in the War of 1812 but returned to Patrick County where he passed away in December of 1813. Frederick was also buried in the Eliphaz Shelton cemetery.

Nancy Shelton was the eighth child born to Eliphaz and his wife, Nancy. Daughter Nancy was born in 1785 and married Elam Newman in Patrick County on the 16th of February 1804. Nancy and Elam Newman were the parents of Armistead "Street" Newman mentioned earlier in the column, along with at least six more children. Nancy and Elam's daughter, Nancy Newman Fitzgerald was the one who took care of her aunt Hannah Shelton.

The youngest child of Eliphaz and Nancy Shelton was Hudson, born in 1790. Hudson also served in the War of 1812 in Captain Abraham Staples company of Virginia Militia. Hudson



Annie Jane Shortt, Shelton descendant and husband, John Peter Woody.

married Miss Lucy Murphy on the 9th of February 1813; the couple raised their eight children in Patrick County. This week's photo is Hudson's great granddaughter, Annie Jane Shortt who married John Peter Woody of Franklin County.

In reference to the whereabouts of the Eliphaz Shelton cemetery, two local folks called this week and shared the cemetery was unearthed in October 2009, when the Main Street bypass was built. According to both these separate sources, the remains were taken to Patrick Memorial Gardens.

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

Social Security Matters

By Russell Gloor, National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens

Ask Rusty – About Medicare's Dreaded "IRMAA" Provision

Dear Rusty: My wife is on Medicare and receiving Social Security benefits each month. We built a house and used money from our investments to pay for it. We knew we would pay taxes on that withdrawal, but my wife got a letter from Social Security saying that because the money we withdrew was listed as income, her 2024 Medicare premium went up over \$500. And since Medicare is taken out of her Social Security, that results in a \$6,000 loss to our budget.

Is there anything that can be done about this situation? We sent a letter to Social Security, but they responded that unless her situation was one of only a few categories (loss of house, divorce, etc.) nothing could be done for the year.

The money was used strictly on another investment - our new house. It wasn't like we took it out and spent it wildly. Can you please advise? Signed: Frustrated Homeowner

Dear Frustrated: Unfortunately, it sounds like your wife is a victim of the Medicare provision known as "IRMAA" – the "Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount." Each person's Medicare Part B premium (coverage for out-

patient healthcare) is determined yearly from their income from all sources as reported to the IRS two years prior. IRMAA sets income thresholds, depending on your IRS filing status, and if those thresholds are exceeded you must pay a higher Medicare Part B premium (and also a higher Part D premium if you have prescription drug coverage).

Assuming you file your taxes as "married/jointly," if your combined 2022 income as a couple was between \$206,000 and \$258,000 your wife's 2024 Part B premium is \$244.60 (instead of the standard \$174.70); if your combined 2022 income was between \$258,000 and \$322,000 then your wife's Part B premium for 2024 is \$349.40; if your combined in 2022 was between \$322,000 and \$386,000, her Part B premium is \$454.20; if your combined 2022 income as a married couple was between \$386,000 to \$750,000 then your wife's 2024 Part B premium is \$559; and if your 2022 income as a married couple was over \$750,000 your wife's Part B premium is \$594. If your wife also has private Part D prescription drug coverage, IRMAA also increases those premiums. Note that the IRMAA thresholds are different for other income tax filing statuses.

As the Social Security office has already explained, you could appeal your wife's IRMAA premium increase if she had a "life changing event," but the list of acceptable life changing

events is quite small (see form SSA-44). The only good news is that your wife's Medicare premium will be calculated anew for next year, so her Medicare premium for 2025 will – if your 2023 joint income is less than the first IRMAA threshold - revert to the standard 2025 premium.

FYI, it doesn't matter what you used the money for. Your withdrawal was reported to the IRS as taxable income, which is what caused IRMAA to apply to your wife's Medicare premium for 2024. Many people don't realize that Medicare premiums are higher for those with a higher income, but since your withdrawal was a one-time event, your wife's Medicare Part B premium next year should be much less and her Social Security benefit correspondingly higher.

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

Water—the cheapest medicine!

Part 2

Plain tap water is best. Chlorine in tap water can evaporate when the water is poured into open jugs and left to stand. The hardness of the water does not matter. On the contrary; the calcium is good for our bones. Mineral water can also be used. But if it is used habitually, the analysis should be studied and water that is tailored to our health conditions should be preferred. In the case of high blood pressure, these are, for example, low-sodium mineral waters.

Fruit and vegetable juices will contribute to the water balance. But keep in mind that they will activate digestion. In small amounts they can be included with the meal. A vegetable juice is included best half an hour before lunch. If fruit juices are used between meals, they should be diluted because of the calorie content and because they stimulate the desire for sweet. And your main drink should always be water. It is simply the elixir of life.

Dangerous Water Loss

Humans are made up of around 70% water. Already 3% decrease in the total body fluid leads to a decrease in saliva production. 10% loss leads to confusion. Increasing the amount of drinking in nursing homes drasti-

cally reduces the confusion of residents. 20% of water loss is leading to death. Physical resistance and strength can also be increased by drinking appropriate amounts. For the expedition of Edmund Hillary, who was the first man who reached the summit of Mount Everest, drinking about 12 cups of water was crucial to their success.

Water as Medicine

Drinking too little water increases the risk of a heart attack. Drinking water makes the blood thinner and prevents it from clumping. High blood pressure is often a result of a lack of water. The vascular system of the whole body adapts to a reduced amount of blood by reducing its diameter. However, this means that the heart has to work more and some parts of the body will suffer from reduced blood flow.

Water can be very helpful for gastritis or inflammation of the duodenum. Mucous membranes that have enough water available act as an acid barrier. They are able to secrete more mucus then with lack of water. So drinking water is a natural protection against stomach acid.

Joint pain can also be a warning sign of a lack of water. The surface of the cartilage in

a joint needs water to increase lubricity. In addition, when there is a lack of water, the blood supply and nutrient supply of the bone are reduced.

Many more illnesses, at least in the early stages, are probably related to a lack of water. We are definitely doing something good for our body when we drink water beyond our thirst.

Call to Action: Know the Water of Life

Life is not possible without water. Water is so precious that in Christianity it is even compared to eternal life. In the fourth chapter of the Gospel of John, Jesus is talking to a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. She has to come to this well again and again to draw water. Everyone who drinks water gets thirsty again. Jesus offers the woman living water that flows into a source of eternal life. Jesus, the Water of life, is just as necessary as the precious liquid that makes life possible. They belong together. Let's keep this in mind when we have our next glass of cool water.

(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)

Lady Cougars fall in region semifinals



Allanah Mitchell puts up a shot in the paint.



Eliza Clifton drives past a Floyd defender.



Shaunteal Hill fires a pass through the Floyd defense.



After grabbing a rebound, Aniya Penn heads up court.



Surrounded by Floyd defenders, Kimora Wimbush puts up the shot.



The ball hangs on the rim after a Kendra Worley shot.

By Pat Delaney
 The Patrick County Lady Cougar basketball team lost to Floyd County in the region semifinals, 44-29, on February 21 at Bassett High School. The loss ended the season for the Lady Cougars.

The Lady Cougars came into the game off of their 41-23 regional quarterfinal win at Appomattox County. Floyd County, coming off their quarterfinal win against Chatham, had won both regular season games against Patrick County.

The game got off to a strong defensive start for both teams. The Lady Cougars opened up the scoring three minutes into the first quarter on a Kendra Worley running jumper. Floyd County did not score for over half of the quarter, and Patrick County led 5-2 after Aniya Penn made a three-point shot. Floyd would add four points in the closing minutes, to head into the second quarter up 6-5.

Floyd County would continue their run, extending it to 7-1 and extending their lead to 11 with 5:00 to go in the half. The Lady Cougars struggled with turnovers and shots that wouldn't go down for much of the quarter,

trailing 24-10 at halftime.

The Lady Cougars came out playing aggressive defense in the second half, but could not put enough stops and points together to make a dent in the Floyd County lead. In the final quarter, the Lady Cougars outscored Floyd, but with the lead, the Lady Buffaloes slowed the game down, preventing Patrick County from getting enough chances with the ball to close the gap any further. After a scoreless final 1:30, during which Floyd County maintained possession for the majority, the final buzzer sounded with the score 44-29.

For the Lady Cougars, there was more to battle than the Lady Buffaloes. Injury and illness were a factor for Patrick County.

"We had a few girls that were sick and out injured. It's been a rough week as far as health is concerned," said Cougar Head Coach Tony Mosley, who liked the effort his team gave for the night. "They battled real hard. I'm super proud of them. They didn't quit. They gutted it out. We had some out there playing, but they weren't feeling good."

The Lady Cougars finished the

season at 12-12, and 5-7 in the Three Rivers District. While losing four seniors, the future looks bright with most of this year's team returning along with players from this year's JV team. Coach Mosley likes the direction of the program.

"I feel like the program is just going to get better. We're in a tough conference, which is good, because it prepares us for days like today when we have to come in and play tough teams," he said.

Looking ahead to next season, Coach Mosely feels this year's team has set the table for upcoming seasons.

Following the game, Coach Mosey said, "I told them they laid the foundation for this program, and that's what we're going to build on in the future. That's our expectation, the way they played tonight, good defense, we just need some buckets to fall and we're going to be pretty good."

PCHS Sports Schedule

The Patrick County High School Cougars Sports Schedule for the week of March 4-10:

3/5	5pm Softball at Franklin County (scrimmage)
3/6	5:30p Boys Soccer at Eastern Montgomery (scrimmage) 7pm Girls Soccer vs Galileo Magnet H.S. (at Dan Daniels Park – scrimmage)
3/7	4pm Baseball vs Magna Vista (scrimmage) 4pm Softball vs Magna Vista (scrimmage)
3/8	5pm Girls Soccer vs North Stokes (scrimmage)

Community health center continues to adapt to meet growing needs



The Connect Health + Wellness mobile clinic offers primary and dental care to the community. (Contributed photos)



Dr. Eric Harrison and dental assistant Alisha Goins finish up with a dental patient.

By Jeff Reid

Initially funded through a 5-year, \$4.5 million grant from the Harvest Foundation, the Martinsville-Henry County Coalition for Health and Wellness (now called Connect Health + Wellness) has gone through a metamorphosis since its inception in April of 2005.

“Our mission is to increase access. Reduce risks. Together, we improve the overall health of our community,” said Brittany Anthony, marketing director of Connect Health + Wellness. “As such, we will continue to assess community health needs and work to develop solutions that drive our mission each day.”

In November 2021, the nonprofit group took over operations of the MHC Community Dental Clinic, formerly known as the Piedmont Virginia Dental Health Foundation at 23 Fayette Street in Martinsville.

“We are committed to providing quality and affordable dental health services to medically underserved children and adults in Martinsville, Henry County, and surrounding areas,” Anthony said. “The dental clinic primarily focuses on serving patients who are self-pay (don’t have insurance) and those who have Medicaid, as availability of dental services for these patients is scarce.”

The dental clinic is currently accepting new patients and operates on a sliding fee discount program, which is based on household income.

In 2022, a mobile health clinic was added to help expand medical and dental services in the community. Most recently, the nonprofit group partnered with Patrick County to expand the mobile clinic program into Stuart/Patrick County to offer medical services that you would typically find in a doctor’s office. Currently, the mobile clinic also visits the Caring Hearts Free Clinic every month to provide dental care services to patients of the Caring Hearts Free Clinic.

The mobile clinic will be visiting the Walmart in Stuart offering primary/medical care services again on Wednesday, February 29th from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Anthony said nurse practitioner Joanna Carter and supporting clinical staff will be on board to welcome sick and well patients. Walk-ins, age 12 and older. Pre-registration is not necessary.

In addition to mobile clinic days for medical and dental care visits in Martinsville, Henry, and Patrick counties, the mobile clinic is used at health fairs, churches, festivals, and community events throughout the year to administer free health screenings and/or COVID vaccines and to

help those who do not have a medical provider get connected with one.

In 2023, the nonprofit organization rebranded itself. According to Anthony, the agency’s board of directors and leadership staff recognized that the addition of new services and clinics had helped the Martinsville Henry County Coalition for Health and Wellness grow and develop into a more dynamic and innovative organization, and concluded the branding and names of yesteryear no longer fit the organization. She said it was determined that a new name and a complete rebrand would help improve and simplify the process of patient access for the organization’s clinics.

After much research was conducted, and time and effort by the board members and leadership staff, the Martinsville Henry County Coalition for Health and Wellness was rebranded as Connect Health + Wellness (plus sign pronounced “and”).

Connect Health + Wellness now has 55 full-time and 6 part-time paid employees that are employed by the two health clinics, dental clinic, and administration offices. In addition, the dental clinic also partners with Virginia Commonwealth University’s (VCU) School of Dentistry. This partnership provides 4 to 5 different students in the field of dentistry and dental hygiene to come to the clinic and shadow the dental staff weekly to gain experience. The health clinics also offer the opportunity for students in the healthcare field who are furthering their education and in need of experience to gain clinical hours.

Connect Health + Wellness provides a host of services including medical care (annual physical exams, routine office visits for illness, children’s health services, vaccines/immunizations, annual physicals, sports physicals, lab services, and more). Dental care services include diagnostic and preventive services, fillings, root canals, extractions, etc.

Behavioral health, chronic disease management, help with medicine, medically necessary eye exams, mammography assistance, health/wellness education, and insurance assistance (including Medicaid) also are available.

Last year, Anthony said the nonprofit organization provided care to approximately 7,000 individual patients, which yielded approximately 25,000 clinic visits. She added that general medical and dental visits account for most of the visits, but there has been an uptick in the demand for mental health visits.

As in most rural communities, healthcare is a major issue, and the nonprofit hopes to address those con-

cerns.

“Martinsville and Henry and Patrick counties are underserved, rural communities that have limited access to healthcare resources and many of our patients would not be able to access primary healthcare or other healthcare-related services if it weren’t for community health centers, like ours, that offer affordable access to these services,” Anthony said.

“Our first clinic was in Bassett (established in 2007), and it was later determined that individuals on the southern end of the county had difficulties getting to the clinic in Bassett due to lack of transportation,” she said. “In 2017, we opened a second health center site in Ridgeway to help increase access for those residents.”

“This is a good example of how we operate as a community-based organization. Our health centers and all of the services we offer positively impact our patients and their families, and our community. Without the services that can be accessed under one roof at our health centers, many of these patients would not be able to access high-quality, affordable care and medications that they need to maintain optimal overall health and well-being,” Anthony added.

According to Anthony, the aging healthcare workforce in Virginia and the need to backfill providers who are retiring in the coming years is concerning. She said access to transportation will allow patients and residents the ability to obtain healthcare, medications, and advanced treatment (also a concern), along with the lack of mental health providers in the community and surrounding areas.

The goal of the nonprofit organization is to continue moving the needle in these communities to ensure no one goes without access to a doctor so

that they can increase their quality of life, as well as decrease the number of people living with chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, obesity, and high blood pressure, for example, Anthony said, adding that all these chronic conditions can lead to living shorter lives if not managed properly.

Improvement begins with having a medical care provider, Anthony said, and new patients of all ages are welcome at Connect Health + Wellness.

“Those who live or work in the city of Martinsville, Henry, and Patrick counties, and surrounding areas are eligible for the services we offer,” Anthony said. “We welcome everyone regardless of insurance status or ability to pay patients who are insured, including Medicare and Medicaid; uninsured (self-pay) and underinsured. Some of our assistance programs and services are based on eligibility guideline requirements, such as having a doctor, insurance, or a patient’s income.”

Connect Health + Wellness (Bassett, Ridgeway, and Dental). Health Clinic hours are Monday – Friday 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. and Dental Clinic hours are Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.ConnectHealthVa.org or call (276) 638-0787.



Connect Health + Wellness clinic at 4944 Greensboro Rd. in Ridgeway.



Dr. Kate Ryan welcomes new pediatric patients to Connect Health + Wellness in Bassett.

PCHS’ Senior Beta Club Attends State Convention

Senior Beta Club members from Patrick County High School recently participated in the Virginia Senior Beta Convention in Hampton, Virginia on February 8th -10th. Students gathered from across the state to compete in academic, talent, and art competitions. In addition to attending the convention, students also had the opportunity to visit the Virginia Aquarium and take part in a friendly battle of Laser Tag. Patrick County students worked hard to prepare their entries for the convention, and eight students were announced as winners in the following categories:

- 1st Place 9th Grade Language Arts (Lacey Sutphin),
- 2nd Place Digitally Enhanced Photography Division 1 (Kylee Leonard),
- 3rd Place Digitally Enhanced

Photography Division 2 (Remi Miller),

3rd Place Engineering Team (Members include Jacob Lester, Jonathan Harbour, Bryan Clark, and Dhritik Tanna),

2nd Place Language Arts 10th Grade (Xena Wilcox), 1st Place Mixed Media Division 1 (Rylee Soliday),

2nd Place Performing Arts-Dance (Heather Edwards),

3rd Place Speech Division 1 (Draysin Maselli), Beta Scholarship Recipient (Kali Craig)

These victories at the state level provide an opportunity for these students to compete at the National Senior Beta Convention in Savannah, Georgia this summer, which students are tentatively planning to attend.

(This content was written by the club’s reporter.)



Pictured (Row 1) Taylor Collins, Joshua Freeman, Emily Eastridge, Lacey Sutphin, Maria Turner, Sabrina Rorrer, Daryl Lynn Combs, Remi Miller, Madi Heath, Mason Scott, Sasha Campos, Raeli Moran; Row 2- Whitley Kruse, Danay Garcia, Kali Craig, Heather Edwards. Mason Cassell, River Beasley, Aliyah Reynolds, Morgan Cambron, Jacob Lester, Dhritik Tanna, Kristie Bentley; Row 3- Mitchell Keith, Abigail Bryant, Jonathan Harbour, Samantha Nester, Lillian Butler, Kylei Blevins, Draysin Maselli, Paige Whitt, Willow Hylton, Callie Wood; Row 4: Bryan Clark, Blake Dillon, Dante Belcher, Tara Collins, Jymasia Manns, Andrew Hensley, Jaxon Ayers-Rosas, Kylee Leonard, Callie Montgomery, Rylee Soliday, Nathan Register, Peyton Hazlewood, Lily Kelly; Row 5- Owen Nutter, Xena Wilcox, Jonathan Turchek, Zachary Letchworth, Mason Dellenback, Ginny Nations, Madison Scott, Jahdoir Hairston, Betty Biggs.

PATRICK PULPITS

Why have a garage?

By Van Yandell

Luke 24: 46-47 KJV "And He said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day. And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

Driving on any given street in our neighborhood, we've noticed almost every house has a garage. But, the car is most always parked outside.

At times we've been out on the Harley and have observed those houses with the overhead door open and those garages are stacked full of boxes, unused (and mostly unneeded) furniture, and other odds and ends.

One's vehicle is a primary and usually large investment. While a \$30,000 (or more) car sits outside in the elements of our environment, the items in some of those garages are likely not worth the cost of a set of tires for the vehicle.

Cars kept outside are more likely to be damaged by vandals, squirrels and other pests. Extreme cold can damage body parts, such as tires and batteries. Heat can damage paint, plastic/rubber seals, and tires. Salt build-up from driving on icy/snowy roads can cause oxidation and even modern vehicles with salt inhibitive finishes can be damaged.

To not take care of a product and carefully maintain it is a form of negligence. The accumulations in garages symbolize how we tend to overlook the important and unconsciously protect the unimportant.

Several years ago, at a homeless mission the director asked if I had an idea to stop the men from leaning against walls and lifting a foot up behind them against the wall. The walls were being marked up and the residents weren't even aware of what was happening. He then said, "One reason many residents are here is because they did not take care of what they had."

We have to be taught to take care of things; it doesn't come naturally. Many in the world today are being supported by someone else. When things are free, it is much easier to neglect their care.

Many Christians assume everyone has heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ and knows what eternal salvation involves. This is absolutely a false assumption and our nation, and our world are beginning to feel the effects of a Godless society.

Teaching a child right from wrong is being omitted in many American homes. "Thou shalt not kill" means nothing. To the contrary, our youth and children are being taught to kill by various entertainment sources.

In the 1950's when I grew up, guns were the desire of many young boys, including me, but the thought of killing another person never entered our minds. We had been raised in a church setting, taught right from wrong and taught Biblical concepts.

We must protect our young people and that is much more important than protecting a vehicle. To raise a child outside the teachings of God is asking for trouble in later life. Moral values for children are essential to assist them in knowing right from wrong and good from bad.

Is it any surprise most American prisons are full, and more are being built? Is it any surprise that the death rate of drug overdosing has sky-rocketed in recent years?

How can the Christian community deny being partly responsible for the degradation of our country? We are not working the Great commission. By not telling others about the saving power of our Jesus, we are aiding and abetting crime and other social ailments.

Matthew 28: 18-20 "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

Jesus' last statement to His disciples was to tell others about Him. If we are believer-followers of Christ Jesus, the statement in Matthew 28 is also directed at every one of us because we are also His disciples.

The word disciple comes from the word discipline and that directly implies we must discipline ourselves to do the work our Lord directed us to do.

We do not have to be Bible scholars to tell someone about Jesus. The Bible teaches that eternal salvation is by a faith based belief that Christ Jesus was crucified for the remission of sin and resurrected. That is the fundamental of eternal life.

1 Peter 3: 15 "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."

A preceding paragraph asked the question concerning the worth of the items in home garages. What are we keeping in our churches that would meet the same description as all that "stuff" people accumulate? What can we eliminate and replace to enhance our outreach potential?

We must ask ourselves, what is the purpose of the church? Many will say worship and/or fellowship. While that is true, those are not the priorities. Since the last COMMAND of Jesus before ascending (Acts 1: 9) was to preach this gospel (Acts 1: 8), we must honor HIS priorities, not our own.

Tremendous respect and admiration is to be had for the churches and pastors that are working the Great Commission (Acts 1: 8). Telling the world about Jesus is not an option; it is an imperative. If a church becomes a self-contained social organization, it should remove the word "church" from its name.

Jesus said in Matthew 16: 18, "on this rock I will build MY CHURCH!" The church is HIS; not ours to be our source of entertainment.

We are not accumulating the converted lost souls to our Lord as He instructed us to do. Is your church like garages that are full of worthless items and the important things are left outside? Do not let that happen and if it already has, change it.

Philippians 3: 13-14 "Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and commissioned missionary.

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Simon (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. How many chosen men of Israel did Saul take with him to the wilderness of Ziph to search for David? 12, 100, 200, 3000
3. From 1 Samuel 3, whose voice did Samuel think it was when he first heard God calling him? Jonathan, Saul, Ahiah, Eli
4. The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any ...? Tongue, Knife,

Two-edged sword, Wit
5. From Genesis 26, where did Isaac stay when there was a famine in the land? Gerar, Endor, Sychar, Lydda
6. What insect was a plague on the Egyptians? Wasp, Locust, Flea, Cockroach
ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) 3000, 3) Eli, 4) Two-edged sword, 5) Gerar, 6) Locust
Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.
(c) 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

Skyline Pentecostal Holiness Church
1515 Rock Church Rd.
Meadows of Dan, Virginia
Rev. Tommy Gosnell
CHURCH SERVICES
Sunday School 10 am
Worship Services 11 am

FAIRWAY BAPTIST CHURCH
9427 Fairystone Park Hwy., Bassett
Located 15 miles from Stuart - 276-629-6088
Sunday School 9:45 • Worship 10:50 am
Sunday Night 6:00 pm
Wed. Night - Adult Bible Study 7:00
"Be the Change" Youth Night 6:30-8:00 pm
Our Mission: "Love God more, Love people more, and serve our community more with the gospel of Christ!"

Patrick Springs Pentecostal Holiness
260 Spring Rd., Patrick Springs, VA - 276-694-6357
Sunday Worship 10:45 am
Sunday School for all ages 9:45 am
Wednesdays
Community Meal & Service 6:00 pm
Food Distribution Ministry:
Monday, Wednesday and Friday
"To Ignite a Passion to Follow Jesus Christ"

Stuart Baptist Church
Bringing the World to Christ
108 W. Blue Ridge St. 9:45 Sunday School
276-694-3440 11:00 Worship Service
www.stuartbaptist.org office@stuartbaptist.org

Risen Lord Catholic Church
59 Mountain View Loop
Stuart
(actually in Patrick Springs)
276.236.7814
Office Hours (Tue-Thu 8 am-3 pm)
Mass Schedule
Sundays at 8:30 a.m.
Reconciliation
Sundays 7:45 - 8:15 a.m.

Stuart Seventh-Day Adventist Church
220 Patrick Avenue, PO Box 1078, Stuart, VA 24171
276-694-7677 • www.stuartva.adventistchurch.org
SATURDAY SERVICES:
Sabbath School - 9:20; Worship 11:00 a.m.
Come visit our Bible-believing church
Join the Church Page!
Call (276) 694-3101 Today

Super Crossword

INTERPRETING ALL THE SIGNS

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 44 Test taker | 89 Leaned back | 3 Court divider | 39 — do-well | 81 Light snack |
| 1 Friendly and cheerful | 46 Sailors, informally | 93 Negev's land | 4 Chants | 40 Bill of tennis | 82 Small rodents, jocularly |
| 7 Custard apple relative | 47 "The Villain" actor Jack | 98 "Fatal Attraction" Oscar nominee | 5 Actor Baldwin | 41 "Hurry it up!" | 83 Sore feeling |
| 12 Peevish state | 50 Gains' offset | 100 Feta, for one | 6 Vega's constellation | 42 Actress Ward | 84 Slumber |
| 16 Air gun ammo | 51 Ignited | 103 Official order | 7 Grill-marked sandwiches | 45 Balm additive | 86 Star of "I'm No Angel" |
| 19 With no secrecy | 53 "If I Only Had the Nerve" singer | 104 Prevarication | 8 French forest region | 48 Female grad | 87 Slower than allegretto |
| 20 Caribbean resort island | 59 "Ka-POW!" | 105 Spiral-shelled mollusk | 9 Brand of faucet filters | 49 Chatty birds | 88 Like booties |
| 21 Physiques, for short | 60 Me, in Lyon | 106 Rep on the street | 10 Cry like — | 52 Apple buy | 90 Cream-filled pastries |
| 22 Suffix with east | 63 On — with (equal to) | 107 Luxury writing implement | 11 Bank bought by Chase, for short | 53 Went spelunking | 91 Big head |
| 23 Door-bashing device | 64 One of the Kennedys | 110 Eye ring | 12 Govt. advances for mom-and-pops | 54 Think aloud | 92 Contributor |
| 25 Working hard | 65 Org. with merit badges | 113 Rhinoplasty | 55 Prison units | 55 Prison units | 94 Covered anew, as a book |
| 26 Grazing field | 67 Leaning | 114 Nastase of tennis fame | 56 2012 Ben Affleck thriller | 56 2012 Ben Affleck thriller | 95 — Lingus |
| 27 Politician | 69 Mother of Jesus | 115 Halibut, sole and flounder | 57 Turkish money unit | 57 Turkish money unit | 96 Suffix with Senegal |
| Alexandria — -Cortez | 71 Things to step on in washrooms | 120 Beatified Mlle. | 58 Bitterly cold | 58 Bitterly cold | 97 Guided |
| 28 Bud Light mascot | 73 Moon that's home to the Ewoks | 121 Madams' counterparts | 59 Adherents of an Iranian religion | 59 Adherents of an Iranian religion | 99 In harm's way |
| 31 A verb often follows it | 74 Top-secret U.S. org. | 122 Eldest of the Musketeers | 60 Thousand: Prefix | 60 Thousand: Prefix | 101 Transversely |
| 34 Vex | 75 Dialect of Aramaic | 123 1998 Masters champ Mark Kennedys | 61 — acid (fat product) | 61 — acid (fat product) | 102 Those people |
| 36 Winning tic-tac-toe row | 76 Ad biz award | 124 One of the Kennedys | 62 "There, there" | 62 "There, there" | 105 100-buck bill |
| 37 "Hoarders" channel | 77 French article | 125 Hug's partner | 65 Georgia politician Bob | 65 Georgia politician Bob | 108 Roman 1,052 |
| 38 "Full House" acting pair | 78 CEO's deg. | 126 Century's 100 | 66 Michael of the band R.E.M. | 66 Michael of the band R.E.M. | 109 Auction website |
| 41 Sideways-moving arachnid | 80 Flashy, diving soccer move | 127 All 12 of its symbols are featured in this puzzle | 68 Small nail | 68 Small nail | 111 "The Wizard —" |
| 43 Judo teacher | 82 Put a flaw in | DOWN | 70 "— la Douce" | 70 "— la Douce" | 112 Celeb's ride |
| | 83 Dog in "The Thin Man" | 1 Dollop | 71 Drink-related party abbr. | 71 Drink-related party abbr. | 116 Radio host Charlamagne — God |
| | 85 Hockey's Phil, to fans | 2 Clean air org. | 72 Suffix with micro- or kaleido- | 72 Suffix with micro- or kaleido- | 117 "Bali —" |
| | 86 Manufacture | | 75 Read quickly | 75 Read quickly | 118 Epoch |
| | | | 79 "I'm c-c-cold!" | 79 "I'm c-c-cold!" | 119 Small pouch |
| | | | 80 Start to wake | 80 Start to wake | |

Watch meeting attracts more than 20



The Patrick County Sheriff's Office held a Community Watch meeting in Ararat on Thursday, with 21 people attending. Sheriff Dan Smith presented opening remarks and fielded questions before introducing guest speaker and Virginia State Trooper J. M. Hylton, who discussed concealed carry permits, and which states recognize Virginia's permits.

Hylton also spoke about the most recent laws on transferring weapons

(guns) between individual persons, and family members, carrying weapons, whether concealing with a permit or not.

After the meeting each of the officers were available to answer individual questions.

Pictured are Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith, VA State Trooper J.M. Hylton, Tom Perriello, Deputy Ron Martin, Taylor Smith Pruitt, and Cathi Clement. (Photo by Mary Dellenback Hill)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18					
19							20				21					22						
23						24					25					26						
			27					28		29					30							
31	32	33				34		35		36					37							
38				39	40					41			42									
43								44	45						46							
						47	48	49		50				51	52							
53	54	55	56						57	58			59			60	61	62				
63						64						65	66		67	68						
69						70						71			72							
73								74		75						76						
77						78	79			80					81							
86	87	88				89	90				91	92			93	94	95	96	97			
98						99					100	101	102									
103										104								106				
107										108					109		110		111	112		
113							114								115	116				117	118	119
120							121								122					123		
124							125								126					127		

CLASSIFIED

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitations or discrimination based on race, color, sex or national origin," or an intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. Our readers are informed that all dwellings advertised in this paper are available on an equal opportunity basis. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate or employment which is in violation of the law.

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: MONDAY AT NOON
Call (276) 694-3101

SERVICES

KENDRICK PAVING & TRUCKING, PAVING, Sealing, Line Striping, Gravel Hauling and Mulch. Rodney Kendrick 276-629-3913 or 276-340-7786. Email at kendrickpaving@gmail.com
Carrying on the tradition of quality.

CLAYTON KENDRICK PAVING
(Original Kendrick Paving) Gravel hauling and spreading, grading, mulch, dirt, pavement maintenance and striping. 42 years experience. Reasonable prices. Call (276) 694- 7786 (office) or (276)- 340-8786 (cell) Email: ckendrick@embarqmail.com or claytonk81@gmail.com

WOODWRX, INC.
Est. since 1988
Carpentry/Cabinetry - fine woodworking, design, tile, closet & garage organizers, repairs, etc. Originally based in Palm Beach County- References Bob Morehouse
Phone: 276-930-1703 Cell: 561-881-8292
E-Mail: Bob@Woodwrx.net
Website: Woodwrx.net

THOMAS LAND SOLUTIONS LLC
Forestry mulching, overgrown property cleanup, bush-hogging, pasture & field reclamation, ATV & walking trails, hunting lanes, skid-steer, tractor and mini-excavator work. Free estimates. Call 276-229-9410 or Facebook Thomas Land Solutions LLC

Morris Construction LLC Home remodeling & repairs, carpentry, roofing, siding, painting, fencing, tree work & more! Contact Nick @ 276-259-4030 or 757-621-5219.

MASTER CARPENTER HOME RE-MODELER
40 years? experience., repairs, decks, gutter cleaning, trim work, wooden bridge repair, power washing, tree cutting, demolition and anything else you need done. Call Joe at (276) 229-1029.

FOR SALE

TWO (2) BURIAL PLOTS IN PATRICK MEMORIAL GARDEN. LOCATION: LEFT CENTER MAIN SECTION. INCLUDES TWO \$1300 VAULTS, CURRENT MEMORIAL GARDENS SALE PRICE, \$2600. MSG / CALL - 346-620-0211

HELP WANTED

The County of Patrick is accepting applications from qualified applicants for the position of DMV Select Office Manager. The successful candidate must have excellent computer skills, be detail-oriented, and be willing to work with the public in a courteous and tactful manner in an often fast-paced environment. The ability to maintain strict

confidentiality is a must. A high school diploma or GED is required. Applicants must be willing to submit to a drug screen and background check. This is a full-time position with benefits that include vacation and sick leave, life insurance, retirement, and health insurance. Hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Overtime may be required.

A complete job description and employment application are available at <https://www.co.patrick.va.us/Jobs.aspx>. Applications are also available from the Patrick County Administration Office, Room 218, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart, VA. Applicants must submit a Patrick County employment application to be considered for the position. Applications and resumes may be emailed to Donna Shough, HR Director, at dshough@co.patrick.va.us, with a copy to Melissa Taylor at mtaylor@co.patrick.va.us. Faxed applications will not be accepted. The position will remain open until filled. The County of Patrick is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability, or age.

Fairy Stone State Park
Now Hiring Multiple Seasonal Positions! Beach Maintenance anger Beach Ranger (Lifeguard) Contact Ranger Food Service Ranger Housekeeping Ranger Maintenance Ranger www.dcr.virginia.gov/jobs DCR is EEO Apply online or at the park office: 967 Fairystone Lake Drive Stuart, VA 24171 276-930-2424 Positions open until filled.

ESTATE SALE

ESTATE SALE:
MARCH 1ST & 2ND
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM (374 MOUNTAIN VIEW LOOP, STUART, VA) ANTIQUES, FURNITURE, DISHES, GLASSWARE, MISC. KITCHEN & HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, BARBIES, PORTS MEMORBILIA, COLLECTIBLES, NORMAN ROCKWELL PLATES, CHRISTMAS ITEMS, CLOTHING, SHOES & MORE! PAYMENT TYPES ACCEPTED: CASH, VENMO, CASH APP, PAYPAL.

VPS Virginia Press Services

AUCTIONS

Claytor Lake Virginia Real Estate Auction: 68+/- Acres with improvements in Pulaski County, VA. Boy Scouts of America Aquatic Center. 14,000+/- SF Event Center with Commercial Kitchen, +/-1,757' Lake Frontage, 16 single room cabins, 4,300+/- SF three story bathhouse with

counselor housing. Auction March 27 at 2:00 PM held on-site at 4100 Adventure Base Road, Radford, VA 24141. Online bidding available. 5% Buyer's Premium. For details visit woltz.com or call Woltz & Associates, Inc. Real Estate Brokers & Auctioneers 800-551-3588. (VA #321)

ATTN. AUCTIONEERS: Advertise your upcoming auctions statewide and in other states. Affordable Print and Digital Solutions reaching your target audiences. Call this paper or Landon Clark at Virginia Press Services 804-521-7576, landonc@vpa.net

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Vinyl Replacement Windows Installed! Starting at \$350 Call 804-739-8207 for More Details! Ronnie Jenkins II Windows, Siding, Roofing and Gutters! FREE Estimates! Call 804-739-8207 for More Details! American Made Products!

Prepare for power outages today with a GENERAC home standby generator. \$0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Options. Request a FREE Quote. Call now before the next power outage: 1-844-947-1479

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-844-902-4611

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-614-6667

The bathroom of your dreams for as little as \$149/month! BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Limited Time Offer - FREE virtual in-home consultation now and SAVE 15%! Call Today! 1-844-945-1631

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE

VPS Virginia Press Services

shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-877-591-9950

SERVICES

DIVORCE-Uncontested, \$475+\$86 court cost. WILLS-\$295.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. <https://hiltonoliverattorney-va.com>.

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 888-608-4974

FREE high speed internet for those that qualify. Government program for recipients of select programs incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet service. Bonus offer: Android tablet FREE with one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping & handling. Call Maxsip Telecom today! 1-855-970-1995

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-888-550-3083 [#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/virginia) Alaska, Europe, Hawaii

VPS Virginia Press Services

plus dozens of other popular trips! Starting at \$1649 per person (double occupancy req'd.) YMT Vacations plans everything, leaving you to relax and enjoy. Call 1-855-743-0491 for more details. Use promo code YMT2024 for \$250 off. Limited time only.

Become a Published Author. We want to Read Your Book! Dorrance Publishing-Trusted by Authors Since 1920. Book manuscript submissions currently being reviewed. Comprehensive Services: Consultation, Production, Promotion and Distribution. Call for Your Free Author's Guide 1-888-366-7596 or visit dorranceinfo.com/vapress

Are you looking to sell or buy a home or property in VA or NC?

Country Homes, Farms, Land, Mountain & Waterfront Property

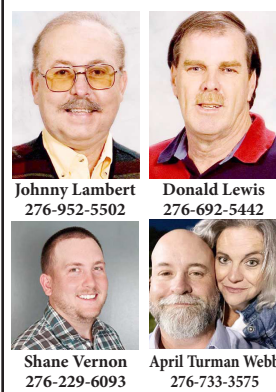
Let Our Experience Work For You.

Broker in Virginia and North Carolina
Call 276-694-2646 or email jlambert@swva.net

Check out our full listings at www.uclambertrealty.com

United Country Real Estate Lambert Realty
Broker, Johnny Lambert

NEW LOCATION
Now located at 22199 Jeb Stuart Hwy. Stuart, VA



When Family or Friends Need Care, Choose the Best



- ◆ Home Health Care Services
- ◆ Nursing Services
- ◆ Social Work Services
- ◆ Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy
- ◆ Disease Management Programs
- ◆ Caring Staff to Help with Recovery from an Illness or Injury



Liberty opens the door for patients to recover from injury, illness or accident, in the comfort of their home. Treatment at home supports improved results for patients, while creating peace of mind for caregivers. Our Staff, compassionate with their care, matched by experience and training, help patients and their caregivers with approaches that avoid a return to the hospital.

Liberty HomeCare
Caring about independence

797 Woodland Drive, Suite 103
Stuart, VA 24171

(276) 694-4424

Commission

(cont. from page 3)



Mary Smith cried when she spoke about the Sycamore Baptist Church her grandfather helped build. The Moscato site will be near the church.

Corsan said it's an unnatural process used as part of First Solar's, the solar panel manufacture, recycling process to reuse the semiconductor over and over again.

In terms of fire and potential wildfires, Corsan said the company is willing to work with local fire departments on training and first response.

"We use Tier I materials and roads on all our sites so that it can fit a firetruck. What we would do is monitor the panels remotely. If there was ever a case of a fire on site, the emergency services would be called immediately and react accordingly," she said.

Materials in the panels would not go into the air, but rather be encapsulated in the panel glass. For example, she said there has been damage on a site in the Mojave Desert that is not an Energix project.

"That actually shattered over 100,000 panels. After the clean-up they tested the soil and there was no evidence of any cadmium or cadmium telluride on the soil," she said.

Malcom Roach asked Corsan to stop with the comparison to salt, which "is a toxic substance. People stop and think you go to your doctor, does he tell you to take salt and use it? Every doctor would tell you to not to put salt in your diet. If you think salt's not toxic," get a few teaspoons "of it and put it in your goldfish bowl."

"Mr. Roach, you did not sign up to speak sir," Cowley said.

"I'll just take one second," Roach responded.

"No," Cowley said.

"No, you will not," Patrick County Sheriff's officer Dustin Foley, said.

"Are you the bouncer? Wow," Roach asked.

Mary Smith said "this site is right beside Sycamore Baptist Church. My grandfather built that church. If I don't fight against, I know Mike (McKenzie, the property owner), we used to be friends. He's probably disowned me, but that's okay. It's important to me that we listen to the people and when we make decisions, we make decisions based on God's direction, not just man's."

Ed Pool, who says he is a certified safety and



Doug Perry (at podium) and Walter Scott hosted a community meeting Friday. Perry is the vice-chairman of the Patrick County Board of Supervisors. Scott is his counterpart on the Patrick County School Board.

health official with a present license by OSHA, posed a question to Draney.

"Dominika (Sink) made a very flat statement to the question by Richard Landis that you were involved in no litigation in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Do you still stand by that today," Pool said.

Pool was referring to Landis, who at the community meeting said he saw the company was involved in a lot of lawsuits.

Landis said there are several counties in Virginia that are all having problems with Energix.

"To me, it seems that you have an inordinate amount of lawsuits against your company. What guarantees are you going to do for us, so we don't get into the problems that all these other counties are in right now," he said.

Sink said Energix is not in lawsuits by anybody or sued by the DEQ.

"In the normal course of construction there's an inspection. If we're not compliant, we would get a warning. If that doesn't get fixed in this certain period of time, DEQ comes back with an inspection and they will issue a notice of violation, and that's what we're talking about," she said.

Sink said there was a problem with a contractor on a project in Wytheville which created issues for Energix. The company does not work with that contractor anymore, and since that incident, Energix has started inviting DEQ to inspect its sites regularly.

"We opened the doors for DEQ. We want to be transparent, and we want to make sure our sites are compliant," she said.

Sink said the vast majority of the violations Landis referenced were administrative.

"If you read the report, there is missing page numbers, a missing signature. A lot of these issues were administrative. Since then, we've worked with the DEQ, we've increased the number of dispatchers. They have the same experience as DEQ inspectors to make sure we catch those things early," she said.

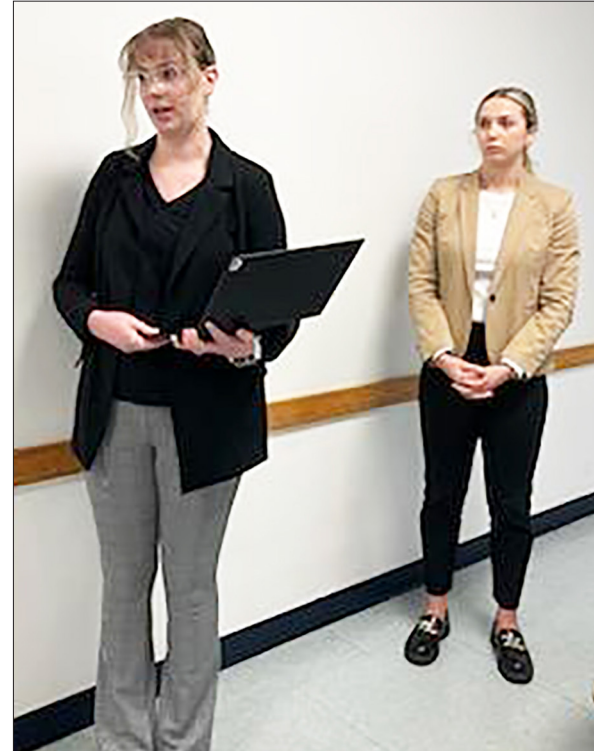
Landis asked what happened in Rockingham County.

"There were some issues there where you didn't pay the contractor and, this was last year, they took out a mechanics lien on the contractor," he said.

Sink said she was not aware of that, but "I can tell you that I know we've five contractors that didn't fulfill their contracts, and if they put a lien we removed that lien on" behalf "of the landowner. I know that happened in Wytheville, I'm not familiar with Rockingham. All I can tell you is, yeah, we manage a lot of contractors in construction. Some of them don't do things according to the scope in the contract," Sink said.

Pool alleged Energix did not fulfill its obligation with the contractor in Wytheville.

"The landowner, a sheep farmer, had a \$300,000 lien placed on his farm. That lien was lifted by the posting of two bonds, by Energix and Liberty Mutual I believe," he said. "I can tell you the litigation



Energix Project Development Analyst Danielle Corsan (left) and Project Development Analyst Gracyn Draney answered questions at the Planning Commission meeting.

is ongoing. As of today, I've checked with court It's not been settled, it is still in arbitration, the bonds are still in force," he said.

Pool also spoke about cadmium telluride.

At the Wytheville site, Corsan said there was a contractor sequencing error for stormwater management during construction.

"What had happened is the contractor that we hired did not perform the stormwater management installation at the proper time," she said, adding this led to some stormwater management issues on site.

Corsan said Energix took full responsibility even though it was a contractor error.

"We did stop working with that contractor immediately and therefore because the contractor did not fulfil their agreement with us properly, they were not paid. Therefore, there was a lien placed on our landowner, which we immediately lifted because we do value our landowners and we want to protect them at all costs. There is no ongoing situation at Wytheville, the lien is gone, there is no issues at Wytheville in terms of stormwater management or issues with the landowner there," she said.

Vance Agee, who said he has a background in mechanical engineering and worked in the chemical industry for over 15 years, noted several submitted documents to the previous board of supervisors that state their opposition to the company and the technology entering into the county.

"We continue in opposition to this particular technology because cadmium telluride is on the top highly most toxic compound within the United States. What does that mean? For example, I think we're familiar with black lung coal mines. We found out why and how it was caused," he said.

Agge said cadmium telluride is well within the top of toxic compounds. "It's a known hazard to human health and our environment. All the issues that are being voiced here, I think that is of the utmost importance to provide for a good decision."

Corsan said the technology, the semiconductor cadmium telluride, Energix uses has been vigorously tested by reputable institutions as well as the United States government.

"It is considered a safe technology. Again, there is no risk of leeching, it can only be done in a lab setting. That is the only way that the panel can be broken down," she said.

Stuart Town Manager Bryce Simmons asked if cadmium telluride was soluble.

"No, it's not water soluble," Corsan answered.

"So, how would someone be exposed to it as a toxic chemical," Simmons asked.

Corsan said it would probably only be during the manufacturing process because it is not contained, "but all the panels that we use, it's all encapsulated and contained. It would only ever be exposed to the air or environment in the manufacturing setting," she said.

"You all are being very naive if you can stand up here and say it will not happen," Gail Spencer told Draney and Corsan. "Just because they're testing in labs don't mean something can't happen. Never say never."

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC HEARING: The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will hold a Public Hearing, Monday, March 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the third-floor courtroom of the Patrick County Veteran's Memorial Building located at 106 Rucker Street in Stuart, Virginia, to discuss the Fairy Stone Solar Siting Agreement. The hearing will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the 3rd floor Courtroom in the Patrick County Veterans Memorial building, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart, Virginia. Action will be taken at the meeting. If you would like to review the Fairy Stone Solar Siting Agreement, you may do so at the County Administration Office, Suite 218.

If you plan to attend and have any special needs requirements, please contact the County Administration Office at 276-694-6094.

LEGAL

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.bwvsales.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.bwvsales.com. VA-368816-1.

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 Trustee, 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 remedy 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



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 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (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.

Meetings

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.

Wednesday, March 20
The Stuart Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. in the Town Office.

Events

Wednesday, Feb. 28
The Patrick County Public Animal Shelter will be closed. It will reopen for normal business hours on Thursday, Feb. 29.

Friday, March 1
The Woolwine Community Food Pantry will be at the Smith River Rescue Squad building from 3-4:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 2
A community breakfast will be held at JEB Stuart Rescue Squad from 7-10 a.m. Plates are \$8 and dine in, carry out, and curb service options are available. Orders can be placed by calling 276-694-6171.

The Ararat Ruritan Club will serve breakfast from 7:30-10:30 a.m. Adult plates are \$8 and consist of sausage, eggs, biscuits, gravy, pancakes, and orange juice, coffee, or water. Kids plates are \$5. Proceeds go to help fund community service projects. The club building is located at 4711 Ararat Highway in Ararat.

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 Sym-

posium 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 mgpeva@gmail.com more information.

Mayo Mountain Church will hold a free community meal, a fish fry, starting at 6 p.m. The church is located at 3977 Dry Pond Highway, Stuart.

Huge Estate/Yard sale fundraiser for Scholarships for kids in need at Ross Harbour Church on Elamsville Road. Inside doors open at 8 a.m. Outside by 7 a.m. The women's group will have biscuits, coffee, drinks, etc., for sale.

Wednesday, March 13
The Patrick County Food Bank will hold distribution at the Stuart site from 8:30-11 a.m. and from 5-6:30 p.m., at Ararat starting at 8:30 a.m., and at Meadows of Dan starting at 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 14
The Patrick County Senior Citizens Group will meet at 11 a.m. in the Hooker Building at Rotary Field in Stuart. Entertainment will be provided by Herbert and Tina Conner. Pizza, tossed salad, and beverages will be provided. Attendees are asked to bring desserts to share with the group.

Friday, March 15
The Woolwine Community Food Pantry will be at the Fairystone park Volunteer Fire Department from 3-4:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 16
Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department will hold a country breakfast from 6:30-10 a.m. Adult plates are \$10 each with child plates being \$8 each. All take out plates are \$10 each. Call in orders can be made by calling (276) 930-2113.

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) 694-3352.

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 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 the first Tuesday of every month at the American Legion Post 105 at 7 p.m. Interested veterans are welcome to attend.

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.

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.

Willis Gap Community Center will hold an Open Jam Acoustic every Friday night with doors opening at 6 p.m. for hotdogs, chips, candies, popcorn, coffee, and assorted sodas. From 7-10 p.m. there will be old time country, bluegrass, and gospel music. A 50/50 drawing will be held at about 8:15 p.m.

Funds earmarked to Confront the Wildfire Crisis

Virginia is among several states eligible for a portion of an additional \$100 million of Inflation Reduction Act funding that will be allocated this year in a competitive internal process under the Collaborative Wildfire Risk Reduction Program to expand work outside the 21 designated Wildfire Crisis Strategy landscapes, focusing on work with non-traditional partners that represent underserved and minority-based communities to help with project implementation.

This Collaborative Wildfire Risk Reduction Program (CWRRP) will be funded by Inflation Reduction Act hazardous fuels dollars, which must be used on National Forest System land in the Wildland Urban Interface, where national forests meet homes and communities.

There are 24 states that meet the criteria for this program, including 13 states in the South, Midwest and East. The internal competitive process allows national forests to demonstrate their ability to move forward quickly on wildfire risk reduction actions that will protect communities, infrastructure, water quality and adjacent land-

owners. Criteria for eligible areas/projects in these 24 qualifying states include areas outside the 21 wildfire crisis landscapes on National Forest System lands that meet the Healthy Forest Restoration Act - Wildland-Urban Interface that are within high-risk fireheds identified in the Forest Service Wildfire Crisis Strategy and/or areas with very high wildfire hazard potential.

Anyone interested in learning more about this internal process should reach out to their local Wildfire Crisis Strategy point of contact associated with the units in the following qualified states.

Other qualifying states include Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Car-

olina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

NOTICE

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

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

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!

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

THINKING ABOUT SELLING YOUR HOME?

LET'S WORK TOGETHER!

LINDSEY PUCKETT

LPUCKETT@FOURRIVERSVA.COM
276-732-6544
LINDSEYPUCKETT.COM

Four Rivers Realty
(276) 694-5044
21521 JEB STUART HWY
STUART, VA 24171

WHEO

92.7 FM
Classic Hits

wheoradio.com

"Small Town Station with a BIG Town Sound"

Council

(cont. from page 1)

got Dry Pond now up in Stuart, and we've got this car wash that we just redid and remodeled for the town," he said.

Paul said Singh Brothers has several ideas to build something for the property that could bring people to the community.

"That's what we need. We need more people to make this town keep growing, you know," he said. "Cause, we live in Stokes County and a lot of our schools are shutting down over there due to not having a lot of people. So, the more people we bring here, and the less people go to Martinsville and other areas it would help this county a lot."

Simmons said the town will entertain multiple ideas about zoning of the property.

"We can rezone just about anything after we have an, I guess, architectural review come in who looks at these things and makes recommendations to the council," Weiland added.

Paul said the pricing is probably in good standing due to some of it being in a flood zone.

Weiland said one can't beat the fact the property is in town and has water and sewer.

"Power's right there, everything's right there," he said.

Councilman Davie Hoback asked the brothers if they had a defined project for the property at this point.

Harjot Paul said nothing defined, but they were leaning more towards the housing side.

"If we could close this deal, I'd be willing to close it within the week and get this thing started," he said.

While they started in the convenience store business, Harjot Paul said they wish to get more into the commercial and apartment business.

"We own 36 units in this town, and they're all rented out. Every week we probably get 12 calls every week, 'do you have something to rent? Do you have somewhere to rent? And we don't. There's not enough places for people to rent,'" Dejeep Paul said.

In other matters, the council:

*Discussed the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 proposed budget. Weiland said the budget includes a four percent raise for all town employees,

*Simmons acknowledged the town receiving an initial offer letter from Virginia Department of Housing (VDH) to prepare a lead service line in inventory project.

"This initial offer letter is for \$250,000 with no match required. Assuming that council is willing to take \$250,000 to have an inventory that is required by the EPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency) this year, I will send an email to the state and let them know we will gladly take their money."

*Approved the meeting minutes.

*Discussed and tabled the noise ordinance until the March meeting.

*Paid the bills.

*Heard an update on town public works projects.

Town Attorney Chris Corbett did not attend the meeting.

Bid Underway

(cont. from page 1)

meetings were intended to update residents on various happenings in the district – not as hearings on the proposed solar farm.

The Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors have held multiple meetings and hearings on the solar proposals – both from Moscato, LLC and Fairy Stone Solar, LLC, subsidiaries of Energix US, LLC, a renewables company based in Arlington, VA.

At the beginning of the process, Roach said the Planning Commission held public meetings on the proposal, "and they turned a deaf ear to what the people wanted in the ordinance. The people asked for certain things, and actually none of it was put in there."

At the February 20 Planning Commission meeting, Roach said the paperwork for Moscato, LLC, a subsidiary of Energix Solar, was approved for the Woolwine project.

"Even though it doesn't meet the requirements of the solar ordinance. So now, it's being pushed to the board of supervisors and at that meeting with the Planning Committee the room was jammed at the college," he said.

"At that meeting," several speakers expressed

opposition to the proposal, and "told the board of supervisors they didn't want that, that what they wanted in the ordinance wasn't in there."

Roach alleged the board turned a deaf ear and passed the ordinance anyway.

The commission considered the proposal only as it relates to the county's Comprehensive Plan. A majority determined that it was in line with the plan, with two of the five-member commission voting against the proposal.

"The Planning Committee pushed that ordinance to the board of supervisors for approval," Roach said.

The Board of Supervisors will consider the Fairy Stone proposal on March 11.

It has 45 days after approval by the Planning Commission to consider the Moscato project.

"Everything that's happened so far tells me that the board of supervisors is going to hide behind the ordinance and push this through. If it takes a petition to get a supervisor removed to actually get their attention and have them pay attention to the people, then I guess that's what we'll have to do," Roach said.

"If they had just sat down and talked to the people like they had some intelligence instead of trying

to jam this down their throat, it would have never gone this far," Roach said, adding that he's not sure if he'll submit the petition.

Roach moved here about seven years ago from Philadelphia, attracted by the pristine environment. He listed his property for sale about a month ago.

"We're not sure where we're going to move to yet. We actually might move to another property in Patrick County, or we may buy two or three properties in Patrick County. Or, at 70 years old, I just might retire to Florida," he said.

Roach began his three-year term on the Electoral Board on Jan. 1, after his name was submitted by the chairman of the local Republican committee. Members are appointed by the chief judge of the judicial circuit for the locality or the judge's designee.

Neither Martinsville Circuit Court Judge Carter Greer, who is the Chief Justice, nor Patrick County Circuit Court Judge Marcus Brinks, returned calls for comment Monday.

The U.S. Office of Special Counsel did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Benjamin "Ed" Pool, vice-chairman of the Electoral Board, and Warren Rodgers, its secretary, also did not return calls for comment.

Max Kendall Lumber & Tin

Price Reduced Metal Roofing

Now Made In Axton, Va. 276-650-2825

Lynchburg, Va. 434-821-3251

Reidsville, NC 336-348-1600

20 COLORS Classic Rib - PBR Panel Standing Seam - 5V

Buy Direct and Save!

American Made Top Quality Low Prices Made Same Day 40 Year Warranty

WE FINANCE METAL ROOFS ON YOUR HOME

Snow Guards Lumber Rough - Dressed - Treated PACKAGE BUILDINGS Contractors Welcome

maxkendalllumber.com 8261 Mountain Valley Rd

Man charged in Dec. crash withdraws bond appeal

By Taylor Boyd Oscar Eduardo

THE ENTERPRISE

Established in 1876 P.O. Box 348 - Stuart, Va. 24171-0348 Phone (276) 694-3101

www.theenterprise.net

The oldest continuously operated business in Patrick County. Published each Wednesday except the last week in December by The Enterprise, Inc., and entered as second class matter at the post office in Stuart, Virginia 24171. Postmaster: send address changes to The Enterprise, P.O. Box 348, Stuart, VA 24171-0348.

Publisher Michael Showell Editor Debbie Hall

Subscription Rates: \$32 per year in Patrick County; \$42 elsewhere. Single copies \$1.00.

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

Vidrio, 30, withdrew a bond appeal on Wednesday, February 21 during a brief hearing at the Patrick County Circuit Court.

Vidrio was charged in connection with the December 16

crash that injured Lauren Worley, a Patrick County High School student, and Micah Underwood, a Floyd County High School student.

Charges include felony counts of permanent maiming another while driving while intoxicated and driving while intoxicated, misdemeanor charges of reckless driving, driving while suspended/revoked, driving while intoxicated - first offense. He also received two traffic summonses.

He has been held with no bond in the

Patrick County Jail since his arrest.

Vidrio, who was wearing a striped orange and white jumpsuit Wednesday, appeared virtually. His defense attorney, John Sonderegger, was in the court room.

Circuit Court Judge James McGarry said the appeal could be requested at a later date, if desired.

About two dozen people attended the trial, most of them in support of Worley and Underwood.

Chris Worley, Lauren's father, was

scheduled to speak at the hearing virtually.

Jason Underwood, Micah's father, also attended the trial wearing two teal Team Lauren wristbands. He was ready to take the stand.

"I'm not real sure" what's going on. "I'm trying to understand," he said following the bond request withdrawal.

Underwood said he was happy a trial will be held.

"I just want justice to be served for Micah's and Lauren's sakes," he said.

JAMIE'S RECYCLING CENTER

BUYING: Cans, #1 Copper, #2 Copper, Brass, Metal, Different types of Aluminum, Vehicles, Stainless Steel, etc.

Call for prices.



Roll off container & pick up service available. Call for details.

(276) 694-5692 or 276-694-5697

Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am-5 pm, closed 12-1 pm for lunch

3609 South Mayo Dr., Stuart

God Bless You



Your relationships are why Ashbrook Audiology has corrected hearing issues for 20 years. Your relationships are more important than anything else in your life. Correcting your hearing issues positively improves every relationship you have. People just like you regain and strengthen their relationships with their family and friends everyday because they discovered Ashbrook Audiology. Come in today and experience first-hand the incredible and affordable increase in your quality of life these communication systems can bring you, and from professionals who wear hearing instruments themselves.

WE TAKE YOUR RELATIONSHIPS SERIOUSLY! DO YOU!



Cynthia M. Jones, AA, AS



1111 Spruce Street MARTINSVILLE, VA (276) 666-0401

4500 Riverside Drive DANVILLE, VA (434) 792-2182

1-877-610-HEAR (4327)

"We Feed What We Sell"

Economically priced and more feed value for your money.

AVAILABLE IN BAG OR BULK

- Horse Feed
- Sheep & Goat Feed
- Chicken Feed
- Hay Stretcher
- Beef Grower Feeds
- Calf Feed
- Corn Gluten Pellets
- Soyhull Pellets

Whole Beef Hamburger \$5.75/lb.
HAMBURGER PATTIES \$6.00 LB.

We buy Corn, Oats, Wheat & Barley. Call for price.



Mark Pendleton

Call for prices today!
888-777-5912

Jason Pendleton

Super Crossword

Answers

G	E	N	I	A	L	P	A	P	A	W	S	N	I	T	B	B	S		
O	P	E	N	L	Y	A	R	U	B	A	B	O	D	S	E	R	N		
B	A	T	T	E	R	I	N	G	R	A	M	A	T	I	T	L	E	A	
O	C	A	S	I	O	B	U	L	L	T	E	R	R	I	E	R			
N	O	U	N	A	N	O	Y	O	O	O	A	R	I	E	R				
O	L	S	E	N	T	W	I	N	S	C	R	A	B	S	P	I	D	E	R
S	E	N	S	E	I	E	X	A	M	I	N	E	E	T	A	R	S		
E	L	A	M	L	O	S	S	L	I	T									
C	O	W	A	R	D	L	Y	L	I	O	N	B	A	M	M	O	I		
A	P	A	R	E	U	N	I	C	E	B	S	A	A	T	I	L	T		
V	I	R	G	I	N	M	A	R	Y	B	A	T	H	S	C	A	L	E	S
E	N	D	O	R	N	S	A	S	Y	R	I	A	C	C	L	I	O		
D	E	S	M	B	A	S	C	O	R	P	I	O	N	K	I	C	K		
M	A	R	A	S	T	A	E	S	P	O									
M	A	K	E	R	E	C	L	I	N	E	I	S	R	A	E	L			
A	N	N	E	A	R	C	H	E	R	G	O	A	T	C	H	E	E	S	E
E	D	I	C	T	L	I	E	C	O	N	C	H	C	R	E	D			
W	A	T	E	R	M	A	N	P	E	N	A	R	E	O	L	A			
E	N	T	I	L	I	E	B	O	T	T	O	M	F	I	S	H	E	S	
S	T	E	S	I	R	S	A	T	H	O	S	O	M	E	A	R	A		
T	E	D	K	I	S	S	Y	E	A	R	S	Z	O	D	I	A	C		

Primary Elections

(cont. from page 1)

VA 24171. The office is open Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The final day for early voting is Saturday, March 2, at 5 p.m.

For additional information contact the Registrar’s Office at (276) 694-7206.

Patrick County polling places and their locations are:

Dan River District

Ararat - Ararat Ruritan Bldg. 4711 Ararat Hwy.

Claudville - Claudville Community Bldg. 1828 Red Bank School Rd.

Willis Gap - Willis Gap Community Center 144 The Hollow Rd.

Peters Creek District

Dry Pond - Peters Creek Community Bldg. 2130 Dry Pond Hwy.

Patrick Springs - Patrick Springs Fire Station 181 Spring Rd. Russell Creek

Russell Creek Community Bldg. 1808 Ayers Orchard Rd.

Mayo River District

Critz/Stella - Hardin Reynolds Elementary School 3597 Dogwood Rd.

Liberty - Patrick Henry Volunteer Fire Department 3125 County Line Rd.

Blue Ridge District

Meadows of Dan - Meadows of Dan Community Bldg. 2858 Jeb Stuart Hwy

Stuart Fairgrounds - Hooker Building, Rotary Field, 420 Woodland Dr.

Stuart Community - Stuart Community Center (Patrick Henry Community College, Patrick Site) 212 Wood Brothers Dr.

Smith River District

Elamsville - Fairystone Fire Station 6687 Fairystone Park Hwy.

Woolwine - Smith River Rescue Squad Bldg. 9962 Woolwine Hwy.

(See Primary Elections p. 15)



Commonwealth of Virginia
Sample Ballot
County of Patrick

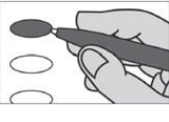
Democratic Party Presidential Primary
Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Instructions to voters

To vote for a candidate, use a black pen to fill in the oval next to the name, like this:

If you want to change a vote or have made a mistake, ask an election worker for another ballot.

If you make marks on the ballot besides filling in the oval, your vote may not be counted.

<p>President Vote for only one</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Marianne Williamson</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Joseph R. Biden, Jr.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Dean Benson Phillips</p> <p style="text-align: center;">END OF BALLOT</p>	
--	---

Authorized by the Electoral Board of the County of Patrick, Patrick County Office Bldg, 106 Rucker St., Room 216C, Stuart, VA 24171
The authority statement printed above must be removed and replaced with the appropriate authority statement for the candidate, committee, individual or group using this ballot for their own purposes. Any reproduction of this MAY NOT be printed on white paper. The authority statement used for this ballot must comply with the requirements of either federal or state law, as appropriate. For state requirements, see §24.2-622 and §24.2-956 of the Code of Virginia. For federal requirements, call the Federal Election Commission, 1-800-424-9530.

P&HCC Convenes with SME, College Presidents on Manufacturing Imperative – Workforce Pipeline Challenge

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) recently met with SME, the national nonprofit committed to accelerating new manufacturing technology adoption and building North America’s manufacturing talent and capabilities, and other Presidents from each of the educational institutions participating in the Manufacturing Imperative – Workforce Pipeline Challenge (MI-WPC) to discuss strengths and challenges in addressing the industry’s workforce shortage and skills gap crisis.

The MI-WPC is a three-year pilot program with a goal to attract 1,000 individuals at each of the initial participating community and technical colleges annually, resulting in 75,000 or more qualified workers in pursuit of manufacturing careers. The estimated economic impact

of growing the industry’s workforce is an estimated \$6 billion.

Launched in Fall 2023, the program combines the industry and workforce expertise of SME with the educational programs and innovations of a select group of U.S. community and technical colleges, including Patrick & Henry Community College. “Through this collaboration, the initiative is building awareness of careers in manufacturing, optimizing workforce systems, and accelerating the education and skill development needed to place individuals in jobs making family-sustaining wages”, said Jeannine Kunz, chief workforce development officer, SME.

“We are thrilled to host a series of both President’s Advisory Council and Manufacturing Association Advisory Council meetings to progress

this public and private sector initiative and keep the momentum moving forward,” said Dr. Deb Volzer, government and workforce partnerships director for SME, who is leading the MI-WPC initiative. “Additionally, we regularly bring together those implementing the initiative at each institution in our “Champion” meetings where best practices are identified and shared.”

Innovative solutions for attracting students in STEM related programs, developing and deploying curriculum aligned to the needs of local industry, changing the narrative around manufacturing, and deploying strategies to build stronger relationships with school districts will be shared nationally to grow local economies, reduce barriers to employment, and fill vacant manufacturing jobs.

Roanoke man faces federal charges after online threats

A Roanoke man was arrested on a federal criminal complaint after online threats allegedly posted last week to a Snapchat group used by students at Patrick Henry High School caused public schools in Roanoke to close Thursday and Patrick officials to initiate a lockdown at Patrick County High School.

The complaint is merely an allegation. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

Stephen Karl Johnson, 35, was arrested after an investigation by the City of Roanoke Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Johnson was federally charged with one count of communicating in interstate commerce a threat to injure another person.

“The defendant caused fear and emotional distress to the parents and students of the Roanoke City Public School system and for those actions he has been justly charged,” United States Attorney Christopher R. Kavanaugh said. “If anyone communicates a threat to our schools, our public servants, or our public institutions in the Western District of Virginia, we will seek to hold them accountable under federal law. I am grateful to Chief Booth, the Roanoke City Police Department, and the FBI for their diligence in bringing a peaceful end to this situation.”

In a recent release, Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith noted the post “about a threat of violence to occur at what was believed to be at the high school was disseminated throughout our community. The location of where the threat was directed was vague.

“As a precaution to ensure the safety of our students, the staff from Patrick County High School initiated a teaching lock down. Patrick County High School’s resource officer, Sgt. David Haymore, immediately requested additional assistance from our office,” Smith wrote.

While investigating the incident, “we learned that the threat was directed to Patrick Henry High School in Roanoke and not Patrick County High School,” the release stated.

“Patrick County Public Schools and the Patrick County Sheriff’s Office take these threats very seriously and work together to address any threats or potential threats that may disrupt the safety of our students and staff,” Smith added.

“The FBI will vigorously investigate and bring to justice those individuals who threaten to do harm to our communities,” said Stanley M. Meador, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI’s Richmond Division. “We will continue working with our local law enforcement partners to keep our communities safe.”

According to court documents, on the evening of February 21, several threatening messages were posted to a Snapchat group used by Patrick Henry High School students.

In reaction to these messages, Roanoke City Public Schools closed all facilities on Thursday, February 22.

To join the Snapchat group reserved for Patrick

Henry High School students, users must register with a Gmail address. Investigators traced the threatening messages to a Gmail address allegedly used by Johnson.

The FBI and the City of Roanoke Police Department are investigating the case.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Lee Brett is prosecuting the case.

Leaf Filter CLOG-FREE GUTTERS
GUTTER PROTECTION **FOREVER**



EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!

15% OFF + **10% OFF** + **0%**

YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE SENIORS & MILITARY! APR FOR 24 MONTHS**

Promo Code: 285

FREE GUTTER ALIGNMENT + FREE GUTTER CLEANING*

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE **1-877-614-6667**

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST A COMPANY OF LEAFHOME

**Wells Fargo Home Projects credit card is issued by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., an Equal Housing Lender. Special terms for 24 mo. apply to qualifying purchases of \$1,000 or more with approved credit. Minimum monthly payments will not pay off balance before end of promotional period. APR for new purchases is 28.99%. Effective - 01/01/2023 - subject to change. Call 1-800-431-5521 for complete details. The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16 month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the #1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America. *For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. Offer valid at one of estimate only. See Representative for full hearing details. Manufactured in Plymouth, Michigan and processed at LMI/Mercer Group in Ohio. AR #036620922, CA #1035795, CT #HC0649905, FL #CRC056678, IA #C127230, ID #RCE-51604, LA #595944, MA #176447, MD #MHCC148275, MI # 2102212986, #262000022, #262000043, #2192612946, MN #R731804, MT #226192, ND #7304, NE #501145-22, #1349952900, NH #R08063, NY #R080650, NV #4419114, #452229, OR #218294, PA #R080383, RI #5C-41254, TN #7656, UT #107020385001, VA #2705169445, WA #LEAFRW822Z, WY #WV056912.

VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED SIX-YEAR HIGHWAY PLAN (2024/25 - 2029/30)

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION BUDGET 2024/25

PATRICK COUNTY

The Virginia Department of Transportation and the Board of Supervisors of Patrick County, in accordance with Section 33.2-331 of the Code of Virginia, will conduct a joint public hearing on the Third Floor of the Veteran’s Memorial Building located in Stuart, Virginia at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 11, 2024.

The purpose of this public hearing is to receive public comment on the proposed Secondary Six-Year Plan for Fiscal Years 2024/25 through 2029/30 in Patrick County, and the Secondary System Construction budget for Fiscal year 2024/25. Copies of the proposed Plan and Budget may be reviewed at the Martinsville Residency Office of the Virginia Department of Transportation, located at 309 Weeping Willow Lane in Bassett, Virginia or at the office of the Patrick County Administrator located in Stuart, Virginia.

All projects in the Secondary Six-Year Plan that are eligible for federal funds will be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Programs (STIP), which documents how Virginia will obligate federal transportation funds.

Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate in this hearing should contact the Virginia Department of Transportation at (276) 629-2582.

Oral comments, written comments or other exhibits relative to the proposed plan may be presented at this hearing.

Commonwealth of Virginia
Sample Ballot
 County of Patrick

Republican Party Presidential Primary
 Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Instructions to voters

To vote for a candidate, use a black pen to fill in the oval next to the name, like this:

If you want to change a vote or have made a mistake, ask an election worker for another ballot.



If you make marks on the ballot besides filling in the oval, your vote may not be counted.

President
 Vote for only one

- Chris Christie
- Ryan L. Binkley
- Vivek Ramaswamy
- Donald J. Trump
- Ron D. DeSantis
- Nikki R. Haley

END OF BALLOT

SAMPLE

Parkway visits trended up last year

Visitation numbers on the Blue Ridge Parkway increased last year, 1 million or 6 percent over 2022, with slight increases across most months of the year, according to the National Park Service, which announced last week that 400 national parks reported a total of 325.5 million visits in 2023, an increase of 13 million or 4% over 2022.

“The Parkway’s location, design, and proximity to so many gateway communities provide a wide array of rich natural, cultural, recreational, and historical experiences for park visitors,” said Blue Ridge Parkway Superintendent Tracy Swartout. “Appealing to so many visitors of so many different interests and abilities is a hallmark of the Parkway experience across the decades.”

One of 429 sites managed by the National Park Service, the Blue Ridge Parkway was created as a national rural roadway with limited access, designed in the 1930s for pleasant motoring free from commercial traffic. The Blue Ridge Parkway travels the crests, ridges, and valleys of five major mountain ranges, encompassing several geographic and vegetative zones ranging from 600 to over 6,000 feet above sea level. It provides visitors with many varied vistas of scenic Appalachian landscapes ranging from forested ridge tops and mountain slopes to rural farmlands to urban areas. The parkway offers a “ride-a-while, stop-a-while” experience that includes scenic pullouts, recreation areas, historic sites, and visitor contact stations. It is known nationally and internationally for its designed landscape as a scenic motorway.

Visitation figures and trends guide how the National Park Service manages parks to ensure the best experience possible for park visitors. The Visitation Statistics Dashboard provides recreational visit statistics for every park in the US for 2023 and also for previous years, dating back to 1979 for some parks. There are 429 parks in the National Park System, and 400 parks counted visitors in 2023. For the first time, there are now parks reporting their visitation numbers from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and four US territories. Five national parks began reporting in 2023, and this is the first year a park from Delaware is included.

Authorized by the Electoral Board of the County of Patrick, Patrick County Office Bldg, 106 Rucker St., Room 216C, Stuart, VA 24171
 The authority statement printed above must be removed and replaced with the appropriate authority statement for the candidate, committee, individual or group using this ballot for their own purposes. Any reproduction of this MAY NOT be printed on white paper. The authority statement used for this ballot must comply with the requirements of either federal or state law, as appropriate. For state requirements, see §24.2-622 and §24.2-956 of the Code of Virginia. For federal requirements, call the Federal Election Commission, 1-800-424-9530.

Saturday Benefit

(cont. from page 1)



The PCHS Praise and Worship Team performed at the benefit.



Winners of the raffle are announced.



A full house enjoyed music, food and fellowship.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Wilderness - Stuart, Inc.

Buying Logs
 Standing Timber or Timberland
 Stuart, VA

Contact Ronnie Bolt at
 (276) 694-4432

THANK YOU FOR READING THE ENTERPRISE

HUGE SELECTION OF LIFT CHAIRS



Small, Medium and Large size chairs available

Starting at Only **\$795**

Riverside Furniture
 1580 Greensboro Road
 Martinsville VA
 276-632-1286
 Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm • Saturday 9am - 2pm



LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS EVERY SATURDAY AT 1 P.M.

- We sell cattle, goats, sheep & pigs.
- State Graded Feeder Sale every Saturday

For directions to our facility, weekly updates of upcoming events and current sale prices, please visit our website:
www.springlakeauctions.com.

Please feel free to call us at
 (540) 297-1707.
We appreciate your business!
 1069 SICKLE COURT, MONETA, VA 24121

Tired of driving to the landfill?



We'll pick it up at your curb!

Household pickup once a week - \$20 month
 Dumpsters for residential and business use available.



WE ARE NOW OFFERING ROLL-OFF CONTAINERS.

Please call for pricing. **276-251-1303**

RURAL SERVICES
 Residential & Commercial Garbage Collection in P.C.
ruralservicesinc@swva.net

Build healthy habits for a healthy heart during National Heart Month

By Alan Hurty, II, MD, Cardiologist

The heart is an amazing muscle. Each day, your heart pumps over 2,000 gallons of blood, circulating oxygen through the 60,000 miles of blood vessels in your body. With so much riding on the muscle, it's no surprise that heart diseases are the #1 cause of death in America – if your heart weakens or stops beating, cells throughout your body lose the nutrients they need to keep living.

February is American Heart Month – a time to celebrate all our hearts do for us, and to recognize what we can do to keep our hearts healthy. While the dangers of cardiovascular disease are real, the good news is that an estimated 80% of heart disease can be prevented. Simple awareness habits and changes in lifestyle can greatly reduce your heart risk, and help you catch problems earlier when they do occur. This month, treat your heart well with these healthy heart practices.

Know your health numbers.

Managing your health is key to preventing heart disease, and two numbers essential to heart health are your blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

Blood pressure represents the pressure your blood exerts on your arteries as it travels through your body. If your blood pressure is too high for too long, it can damage your arteries and increase your risk of heart disease.

Cholesterol is a fat-like substance found in your blood and comes in two forms – high-density lipoprotein (“HDL” or “good” cholesterol) is healthy and produced naturally by your body, whereas low-density lipoprotein (“LDL” or “bad” cholesterol) is gained by eating fatty foods. If your “bad” cholesterol levels grow too high, plaque can build up in your arteries, stifling the flow of blood to your heart.

Other risk factors include age, genetic background, and family health history. While these risks are outside your control, it's important to monitor them and discuss them with your provider – the higher your baseline heart risk, the more vital it is to control your other risk factors.



Alan Hurty, II, MD, Cardiologist

This month, schedule an appointment to test your blood pressure and cholesterol levels, and ask your primary care provider how you can keep your numbers in a healthy range.

Eat a heart-healthy diet.

A healthy diet is the best way to lower your blood pressure and cholesterol, and to get your heart the nutrients it needs. Reduce your “bad” cholesterol by eating foods that are high in fiber, such as whole grains and leafy greens, and by consuming fewer saturated fats and trans fats. Lower your blood pressure by limiting your intake of salt, alcohol, and added sugars. When choosing proteins, focus on nuts, legumes, and lean meats like chicken or fish, while cutting back on red meat and fried food.

In addition, smoking is strongly linked to both

high blood pressure and heart disease. If you're a current smoker, reach out for help with quitting. Find free cessation resources by calling 1-800-QUIT-NOW.

Build a hardy heart with cardio exercise.

Like any muscle, your heart becomes stronger the more it's used. Cardiovascular exercise – physical activity that elevates your heart rate – is essential for your health, and helps you manage your blood pressure and cholesterol levels. The average person should get 150 minutes of cardio exercise each week. This can equate to a 30-minute jog each day after work, or a couple evenings per week playing recreational sports. Find an activity you enjoy and set a time in your schedule when you know you can get up and move.

Know the symptoms of a heart attack.

Not all heart disease has symptoms. Often, the condition is “silent,” with risk factors going unseen and unaddressed until the day of a heart attack. That's why it's so vital to discuss your risks with a provider. When symptoms do occur, they sometimes leave patients with little warning. Call 9-1-1 immediately if you or someone you love experiences any of the following:

- Pain or discomfort in the chest, arm, neck, or upper back
- Fluttering feelings in the chest (arrhythmia)
- Feeling dizzy, faint, or out of breath
- Women may also experience sudden nausea or exhaustion

No one should have to live in fear of heart disease. By taking charge of your blood pressure and cholesterol, and recognizing the warning signs of a heart attack, you can lift a real weight off your chest. This Heart Month, schedule a visit with your primary care provider and ask about the steps you can take to live a healthy life.

If you would like to speak to a provider about your heart health, Twin County Regional Healthcare can help. Call 800.424.3627 or visit the “Find a Doctor/Provider” tab at TCRH.org to schedule an appointment today. In the event of a heart-related emergency, call 9-1-1. Minutes matter, and acting quickly may save a life, including your own.

DAISY Award winner from Woolwine



Kalayna Cassidy

Kalayna Cassidy, a Woolwine resident, is an RN at CNRV who received the DAISY Award. She has several nominations from patients' and patients' family members who nominated her due to her compassion.

The DAISY Award is a recognition program to celebrate and recognize nurses by collecting nominations from patients, families, and co-workers.

She is a recent May graduate from New River Community College. She will join the other nurses who have received this prestigious award.



Outstanding Open Jam reported

The Open Jam Friday Night on Feb. 23 was outstanding, according to Mary Dellenback Hill's report from the scene. Food, music and dancing are mainstays of the events held at the Willis Gap Community Center, 144 The Hollow Road, Ararat.

More than 20 musicians and singers performed, with all ages represented in the audience. Music genres ranged from Bluegrass, Country, old-time, and Gospel songs.

The Willis Gap Jamming Dancers got on the floor several times to flat foot, and or clogged to some of the highly uplifting bluegrass tempos.

Pictured left to right are Rick Sebastian from Mount Airy, N.C. and Tommy Morse from Stuart, both on banjo; Dan Shikenjanski, on fiddle, is one of the well-known players on top of the mountain at the Blue Ridge Music Center.

Back row: Shane Vestal on mandolin, Jamie Graham on bass, and Daniel Huff, of Galax, on guitar.

A big thank you to the audience, volunteers, musicians, singers, 50/50 ticket sale participants, kitchen helpers, and Les Edgell for the order of the Jam. (Photos by Mary Dellenback Hill.)

★ AUCTION ★

HUGE COIN & CURRENCY AUCTION

Saturday, March 2, 2024 @ 10:00am
(Doors open @ 8:00 am)

HORSE PASTURE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
17815 A.L. PHILPOTT HWY (RT. 58W), RIDGEWAY, VA 24148

★★ OVER 200 LOTS TO BE SOLD! ★★

Uncirculated CARSON CITY SILVER Coins, GOLD Coin, Graded Coins, Complete Sets & Individual SILVER Coins, Books & Currency, Proof & Mint Sets, SILVER Eagles, Franklin & Kennedy SILVER Half Dollars, Two, Three & Twenty Cent Coins, SEVERAL KEY DATE COINS, TOO MANY ITEMS TO LIST!!

★ In the event of snow or ice, call Auctioneer day of auction at (276) 340-6441 ★

PICTURES & COMPLETE LIST AVAILABLE AT www.auctionzip.com, AUCTIONEER #4097

★ DIRECTIONS ★

FROM MARTINSVILLE, VA - Take Hwy 58W, go 7 miles, Horsepasture Fire Dept. on left at corner of 58W & Rt. 687 (Soapstone Road). WATCH FOR SIGNS

FROM STUART, VA - Take Hwy 58E into Henry County, turn right on Rt. 687 (Soapstone Road), 1st road to right just past Old Country Store & Hillcrest Baptist Church. LOOK FOR SIGNS

WILLIAMS AUCTION CO.
CHARLES E. WILLIAMS, JR., AUCTIONEER
110 STATION DRIVE, MARTINSVILLE, VA 24112
(276) 340-6441

VAAL #3261 NCAL #9220
Visit us at: www.auctionzip.com

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE PATRICK COUNTY ALZHEIMER'S GROUP

▶ 2ND ANNUAL ◀

PATRICK COUNTY'S GOT TALENT

CALLING ALL TALENT ACTS! Musicians, singers, dancers, gymnasts, actors, comedians, magicians, etc.

PRIZES AWARDED BY AGE GROUP OPEN TO ALL AGES

JOIN US AND COMPETE IN PATRICK COUNTY'S GOT TALENT

CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

MARCH 16, 2024 | PATRICK COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM | REGISTER ONLINE

7:00 PM

EVENT SPONSORS: BBQ, BLUE RIDGE, LANDMARK CENTER

PATRICK COUNTY ALZHEIMER'S GROUP IS CELEBRATING THEIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY!

REGISTRATION VIA MAIL:

NAME: _____

TYPE OF TALENT: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____ AGE: _____

RETURN TO:
Patrick County Alzheimer's Group
c/o Sally Smith
PO Box 1301
Stuart, VA



DRBA will host a three-mile hike on the Farris Memorial Park Mountain Biking Trail for its First Saturday Outing on March 2, at 1:30 p.m. This hike is suitable for most ages and abilities. Outings and meetings of the Dan River Basin Association are open to the public without charge.

Hike Farris Memorial Park with DRBA

The Dan River Basin Association (DRBA), will host a full day of business and fun on March 2, starting at 9:30 a.m. with a virtual business meeting.

Following a mid-day break to allow for travel to an afternoon hike venue, the public is invited to meet at 1:30 p.m. at Farris Memorial Park, 2878 Park Road, near Mayodan, N.C. for an invigorating 3-mile loop hike.

Farris Memorial Park is over 270 acres of open land, forests, and athletic fields that offer a variety of recreational activities. The park has numerous amenities including walking trails and the only public Mountain Bike Trail in western Rockingham County, host to the annual NICA Bike Races "Mayhem at Mayodan" on April 20-21 and "Season Showdown" May 18-19.

The trail takes you through switchbacks, over rock gardens, and small

streams. Most of the trail runs through hardwood and mixed pine forest.

Before the walk will be a brief history of Farris Park by Cesar Chavez, Parks and Streets Director for the Town of Mayodan.

After the walk participants are welcome to stay and enjoy the other park amenities such as the Disc Golf Course, driving range, and fishing lake.

Participants are asked to dress for the weather, wear sturdy, comfortable hiking shoes, bring water/snacks, hiking sticks are a plus, and leashed pets are welcome. All participants will be required to sign a waiver.

For more information, contact the outings coordinator Keith Elliott; Eden, NC; 336-613-2966; keithmale1@gmail.com.

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

Lawmakers signal more support for electric vehicles, charging network



An electric vehicle charger in Richmond, Virginia. Current legislation could bring these chargers to more corners of Virginia. (Sam Bradley/Capital News Service)

By Sam Bradley
Capital News Service

Lawmakers advanced legislation to expand electric vehicle infrastructure throughout the state, which could help meet a looming mandate that sales of new gas-powered vehicles be phased out by 2035.

More infrastructure, such as electric chargers, is needed to meet the deadline and growing EV demand.

Del. Richard "Rip" Sullivan, D-Fairfax, introduced House Bill 107, which creates the Electric Vehicle Rural Infrastructure Program and Fund. The measure financially assists developers in bringing EV chargers to rural areas that meet established conditions. Areas qualify based on population density, annual unemployment and poverty rates.

Funds would be used to offset nonutility costs, which include construction and some needed parts like breakers, conduits and cables. Developer grants would be capped at 70% of the cost to construct public charging stations.

The bill passed the House with bipartisan support, on a 71-27 vote. Sullivan requested \$50 million over the next two years for the fund. An employee would need to help manage the fund, on an estimated \$50,000 annual salary.

The House budget presented earlier this week reduced the amount to \$2 million in the current fiscal year.

"I look at it very positively, and I am hopeful about the bill's chances," Sullivan said about the budget. "Virginia is a very big place. We need a lot of EV charging stations around it, so I view this as a good start."

The number of public EV chargers in Virginia increased by approximately 75% since 2020, per a study recently released by the Southern Environmental Law Center. Senior attorney Trip Pollard is the land and community program leader with the nonprofit advocacy group.

There are still big gaps in EV charger coverage. The state's transition to modern, more sustainable transportation will not happen overnight and the public needs to be prepared for it, according to Pollard.

A fund to help rural development is important to bridge the gap between EV ownership and its practicality in rural or lower-income communities. Legislation can help ensure no communities are left behind in the transition, Pollard said.

There has been a federal push to increase the spread of publicly available chargers through the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pollard said. The federal funding appropriates \$106 million over five

years to support the expansion of an EV charging network. Virginia can also apply for the \$2.5 billion dedicated to grants for EV charging.

There is a gap in rural coverage, since most charging infrastructure is centered around major interstates and highways. Many rural areas in Virginia are without the type of public ports needed to charge EVs quickly, according to a study from the Southern Environmental Law Center.

Private charging is the dominant option for EV owners. Roughly 90% of EV owners can install private chargers at their home, according to the study.

"That's one of the biggest areas that we need to address," Pollard said. "The majority of EV owners charge at home, but if you're in a multi-family that can often be very difficult to do."

EV charging standards for new development

Del. Adele McClure, D-Arlington, introduced HB 405, which tasks the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation to oversee the design standards and requirements to safely bring charging capabilities into new housing developments.

The commission would determine what type of electrical distribution infrastructure is needed to support EV charging facilities in new single-family and multifamily residential units.

When McClure canvassed during campaign season, she heard from constituents who said they wanted to see more EV infrastructure.

"I started thinking about ways where we can ensure that there are more charging stations, especially when it comes to new builds," McClure said.

The bill stems from conversations between home builders and environmentalists on the best way to remove barriers and lower the costs to build "easy-ready and EV-capable residential communities," McClure said.

All new vehicles sold must be electric models, starting in 2035. The mandate stems from the state's Clean Car law passed in 2021, which adopts California's standard. But 35% of all new cars and trucks sold in Virginia with a 2026 model year must be electric. Lawmakers have attempted to overturn the law, questioning if the state's infrastructure will be ready and if the vehicles are affordable enough.

Both of the bills are now waiting to be heard in committees, after crossing over to the Senate.

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.

U.S. cattle inventory at lowest level since 1951

In its fifth consecutive year of decline, the U.S. cattle inventory reached its lowest level since 1951.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reported that as of Jan. 1, U.S. cattle and calves totaled 87.2 million head, down 2% from last year. The decline is largely due to cattle producers having to sell their herds as they contend with severe dry weather and increased feed and input costs. Fewer female cattle available for breeding means it will take time to restock herd populations.

"The cow herd doesn't come back overnight," explained Robert Mills, a Pittsylvania County cattle producer and member of the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Livestock Advisory Committee. "It'll take about three years (to rebuild herds) once you start seeing heifers being retained."

The low cattle supply combined with high demand for beef could lead to higher prices in the grocery store, as processors will have to compete for cattle. However, "increases in imported cattle and beef will likely limit the impact that will be felt at the grocery store," explained Brandon Reeves, executive director of the Virginia Cattlemen's Association.

"We have already seen a huge increase in the number of feeder cattle imported from Mexico thanks to the free trade agreement we have with them," Reeves said.

He noted that Virginia's cattle producers could benefit from the lower national numbers, as the commonwealth is primarily a cow-calf

state. Cow-calf operations are those on which farmers keep a permanent herd of beef cattle that will produce calves for later sale. Lower national inventories "should help our producers by driving up the demand and price for Virginia feeder cattle. Producers will have difficult decisions to make on whether they sell or retain replacement heifers," Reeves said.

Mills echoed that sentiment. "Over the last two years, we've seen an increase in price, and there's profitability in the cow-calf side of things right now," Mills said. "As a cattle producer, I'm encouraged by lower national numbers because that tells me the prices will remain relatively strong until we see that herd rebuild."

While national numbers have shown a decline, Virginia's cattle inventory ticked up slightly. According to a USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service report released Jan. 31, Virginia's total cattle inventory as of Jan. 1 was 1.32 million head—up 30,000 from last year.

Mills noted that increase is a drop in the bucket compared to Virginia's overall cattle sector, but it could be a sign that Virginia farmers are responding to the higher prices and are keeping more heifers for breeding to rebuild herds.

"That's kinda the way the cycle works," he said. "With these higher prices, you'll see some people begin to retain some heifers, and you should see the cattle herd starting to turn in the other direction."

Prevent forced sales, and keep land in the family with a customized estate plan

Six sisters who owned two land tracts on the Northern Neck decided to harvest timber on one site to fund improvements at the home-site. Their grandfather's land had been owned by the family since 1893.

But when the sisters were ready to arrange the timber harvest and sale, they learned a cousin living states away had already sold it.

"We pulled up, and there was no timber," said Karen Snape, a Virginia Cooperative Extension forestry agent. "It was clear-cut a few years prior, and they didn't know about it. The logger bought the timber from a cousin, who was paying the property taxes."

Because the grandfather had no estate plan, the land had passed

informally to generations of heirs. Those "tenants in common" are co-owners of the property and can bring court action to divide or sell it through state partition law.

The person paying the taxes does not have any more legal right to the land than their co-heirs, Snape noted. But partition law allows heirs to divide land equitably to each fractional interest. A distant relative can force a sale without co-heirs' agreement, even if family members are still living onsite.

The Virginia State University College of Agriculture and Small Farm Outreach Program partnered with VCE to present stories of generational land loss, and solutions to preserve family land at a recent seminar held at Randolph Farm.

Participants also learned how developers exploited the law before the 2020 passage of the Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act. Developers would convince a single heir to sell their small title interest or fractional share and then use the courts to forcibly sell the whole property.

"But there are ways to consolidate ownership, which can be a long and difficult process," Snape said.

Ebonie Alexander, executive director of Black Family Land Trust Inc., said land is an asset, "and it should be a performing asset. If you have heir's property, then it can't perform the way you need it to."

Black Americans have particularly been affected by partition

law, losing 98% of family land that once totaled 15 million acres in the 1920s.

"They can ride down any road their family grew up on and say—we used to own that, my uncle owned that," Alexander continued. "This access to information is designed to stem land loss and put us on a different projection where we are buying land again."

Visit shorturl.at/uW578 to register for any of the five additional free seminars held statewide.

Virginia Farm Bureau estate planning specialists can assist landowners in creating trusts and other holdings to keep land a performing asset for generations to come. Visit shorturl.at/agmtK for more information.

Interest and color in the winter landscape



Various dwarf evergreens



Winterberry Holly



Korean Spice Viburnum



Dried Hydrangea flower heads



Carolina or Winter Jasmine



Hellebores



Cranesbill Geranium

By Ginnie Conaway, Patrick County Master Gardener

Have you been looking out your home windows or seeing your yard from the road and considering adding structural interest and color to your landscape to improve the winter view? Below are suggestions of trees, shrubs, perennials, and groundcovers you might use to do just that. A great side benefit to adding plants for winter interest is many of these will provide food and shelter for birds and small animals.

This is the second part of "A Winter Landscape" article. The first part, by Sherry Easterbrooks, dealt with evaluating your gardens and yard. This part will be on choosing the structural elements and plants to enliven your property.

After you have studied your property, drawn a site map and made a list of ideas and desires, it's time to consider your options. You have permanent objects such as houses, sheds, and trees, hardscapes like driveways and paths, trellises, decks, and arbors to work with and around. Decide what structures you want to add or remove before the growing season begins.

Before deciding on what plants you want to add, take into consideration the amount of sunlight available and the prevailing winds. Moisture and soil type also play a part in choosing plants. Decide if and where you want to add plants for structural interest during the winter months, for example an evergreen shrub, a weeping or contorted ornamental tree, or a stand of tall grasses.

Consider perennial plants that retain their seed heads, such as hy-

drangeas, echinacea (coneflowers), some varieties of iris, tall asters, autumn blooming clematis and many others.

Perennial plants, ground covers, and sub-shrubs that retain their foliage and color might include the silver artemisias, loropetalum, variegated euonymus which come in green and white or gold and white, golden or green junipers and ilex (holly), and red or yellow twig dogwoods. Ground covers of creeping jenny, hardy geraniums, and ajuga retain their colorful foliage and help prevent soil erosion from winter winds and storms.

Don't forget the berries and drupes! Hollies can be both evergreen and deciduous, and most provide berries both for color and as food for the birds. Beautyberry, an open deciduous shrub covers its branches with intense violet-purple berries in the fall. Cotoneaster varieties which can grow as a ground cover or shrub and the upright pyracanthas also provide bright red berries. Pyracanthas can be trained up a trellis or chimney or form an impenetrable hedge with their sharp thorns.

There are also numerous perennial flowers that bloom during the late grey days of winter. hellebores (Lenten rose), pansies and violas, some varieties of primroses, and many early small bulbs.

For those warm winter days when you can get outside and enjoy the garden, you might want to add a few fragrant plants near a path or doorway. Some with the sweetest fragrance are the tall Arrowwood Viburnum 'Dawn' to the compact Korean Spice Viburnum

which is growing by my front door. A large shrub that both blooms in the winter and smells delightful is Fragrant Wintersweet. Mahonia or Grape Holly also blooms early and smells great. All these early blooming plants provide much needed nectar for early bees.

Following is a list of possibilities for your winter garden. Plan now, plant in the spring or fall. Enjoy.

Trees

Evergreens – Pines, Cedars, Arborvitae, False Cypress, Juniper, Holly, Magnolia, several varieties of pine, cedar, false cypress and more come in dwarf forma.

Weeping trees – Weeping and Curly Willow, Cherry, Larch, Birch, Mulberry.

Exfoliating bark – River Birch, Paper Bark Maple, Kousa Dogwood, Stewartia, Crape Myrtle

Shrubs

Evergreens – Camelia, Azalea, Rhododendron, Yellow Anise, Juniper, Arborvitae, Yew, various Hollies, Abelia, Mountain Laurel, Mahonia aquifolium, Winter Heath, Euonymus, Yuca, Cotoneaster, Loropetalum, Nandina nana – no berries but bright red foliage.

Flowering – Camelia, Daphne, Witch Hazel, Mahonia, Winter Jasmine, Pieris Japonica.

Interesting Bark or Shape – Oak-

Fairystone Volunteer Fire

Department's breakfast fundraiser

A delicious breakfast and wonderful company were on tap at the Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department breakfast on Feb 17. Support the the volunteers could use some help with the next breakfast on March 16. If you have time, next breakfast, too. (Contributed)



Thank You for reading The Enterprise